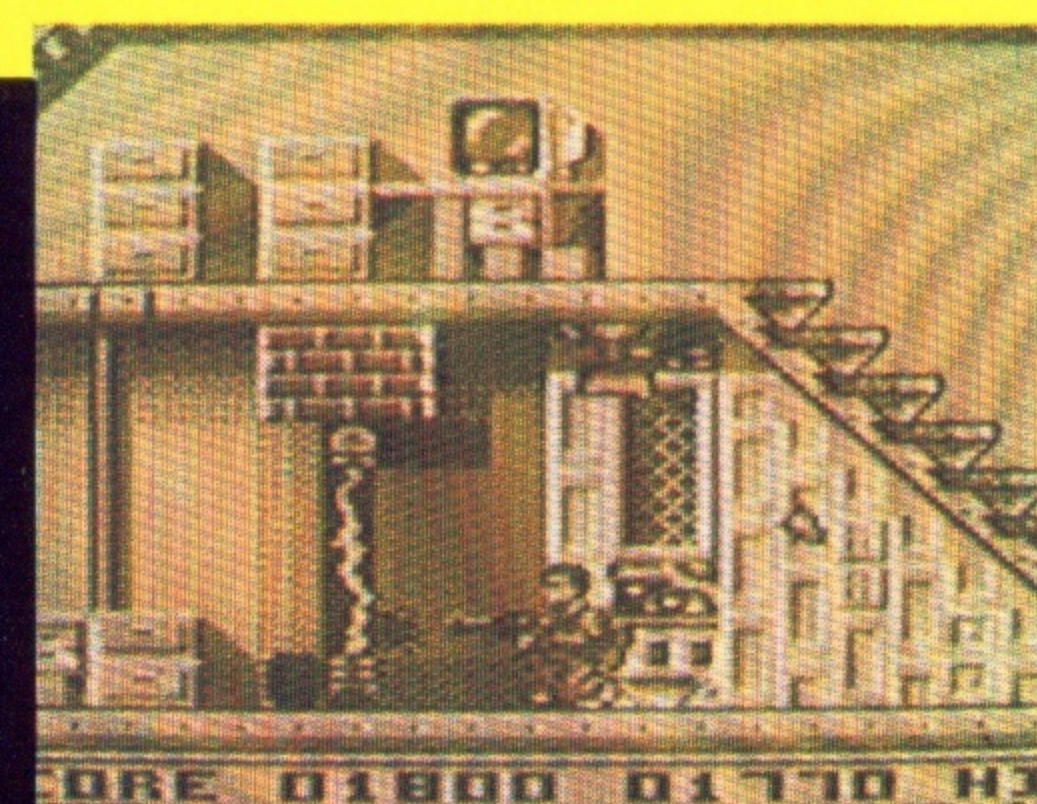
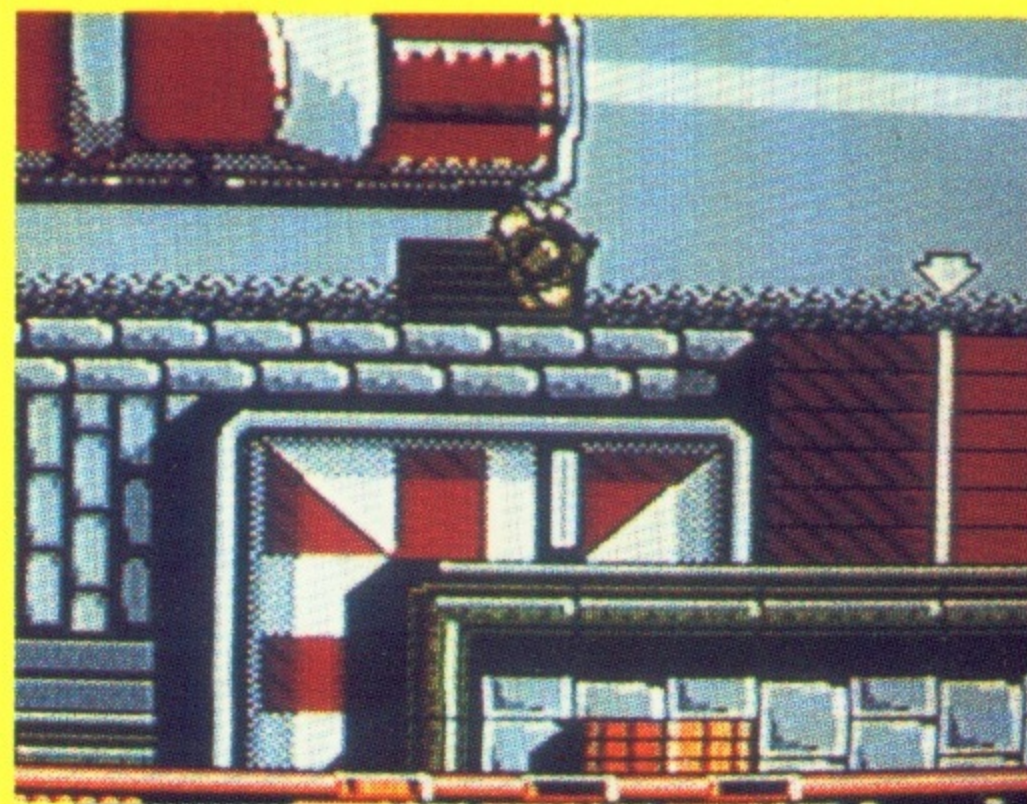


MEAN MACHINES

COMPLETE GAMES GUIDE



643 GAMES REVIEWED INSIDE!

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There are 643 games reviewed in this reference book. The games are sorted into machine format and are then listed in strict alphabetical order within that group.

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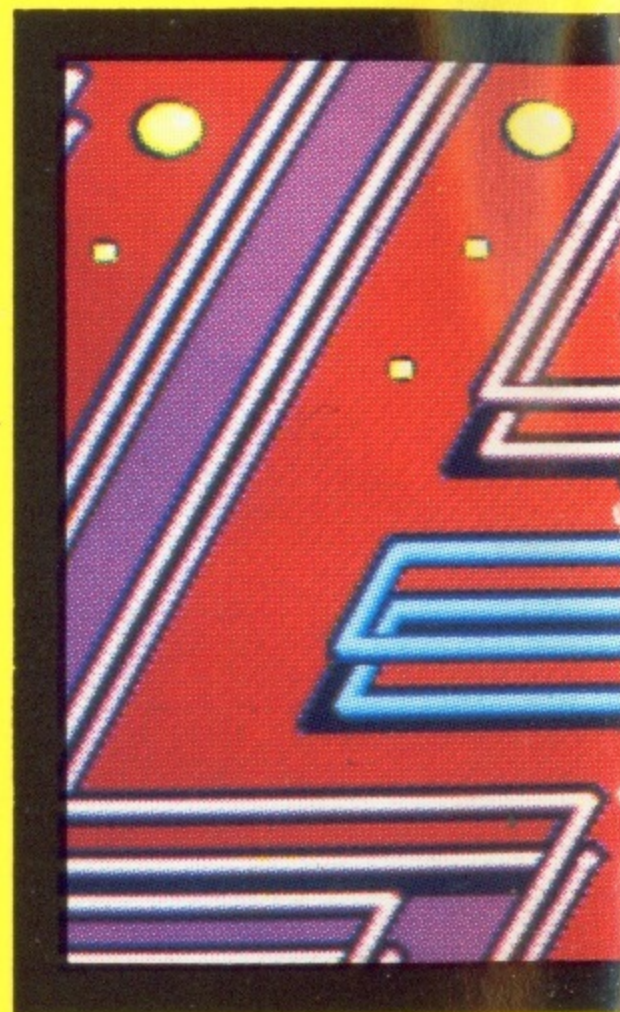
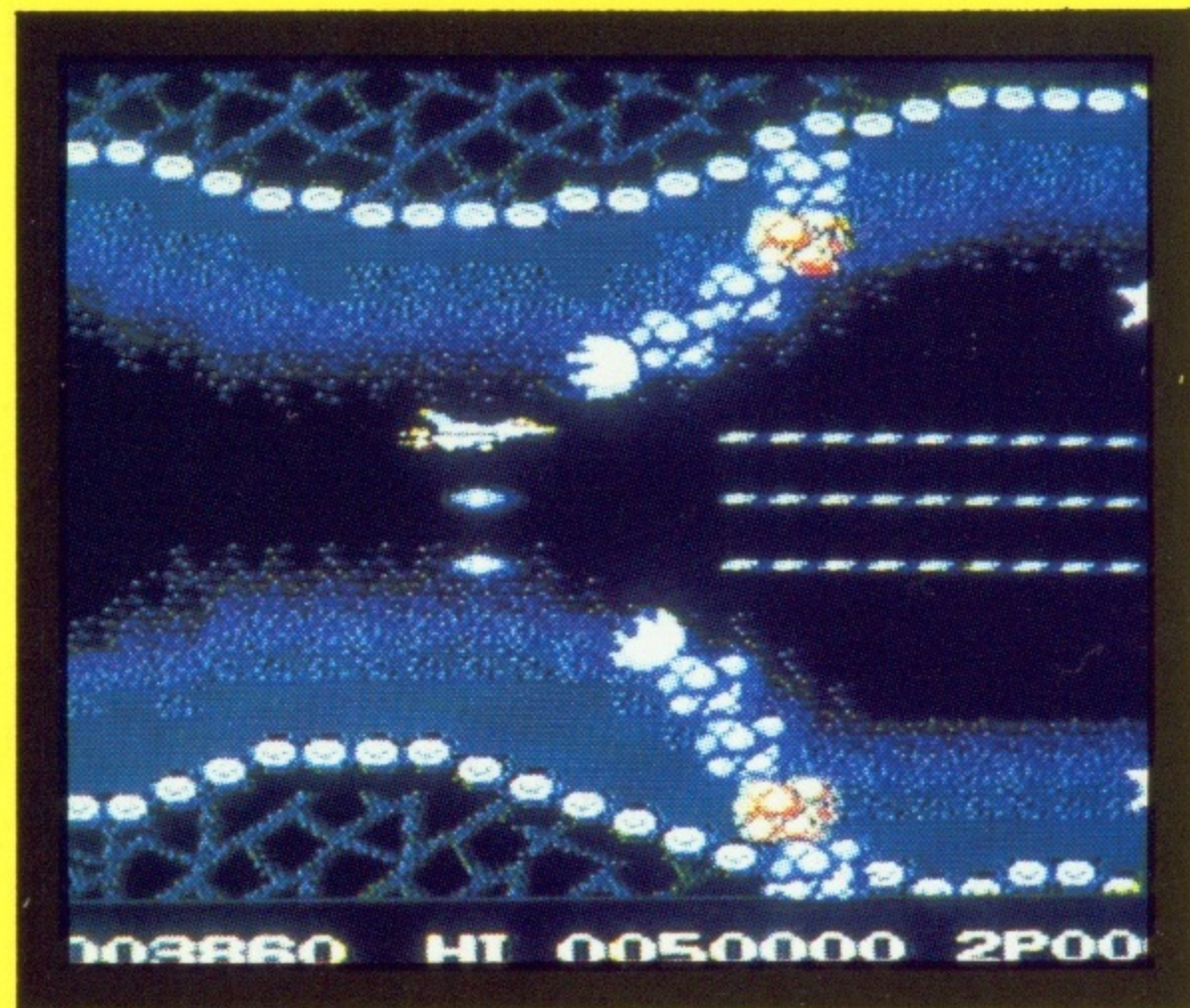
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**EDITED AND WRITTEN BY:
JULIAN RIGNALL AND RICHARD LEADBETTER
ADDITIONAL TEXT BY RADION AUTOMATIC**

AIRWOLF

Take control of Stringfellow Hawke's as-seen-on-TV attack helicopter, and zip around the skies, trashing airborne enemies. There's not a great deal to this game, but the graphics and sound are okay and the gameplay, though not particularly original, should prove enjoyable for fans of the TV show.

OVERALL

75%

BALLOON FIGHT

The aim of Balloon Fight is simplicity itself! Boasting gameplay similar to the classic Joust arcade game, it's your job to fly around the screen descending on enemy sprites and bursting their balloons, while guarding your own from attack. Even though there's simultaneous two-player action, it all grows dull very quickly.

OVERALL

74%



BATMAN

The Joker is causing trouble in Gotham City, and there's only one body-stocking wearer who is superhero enough to stop him - the Batman. There are 20 platform levels to beat, and though the initial difficulty level is set quite high, the gameplay is addictive enough to keep you coming back. All in all, a first class game.

OVERALL

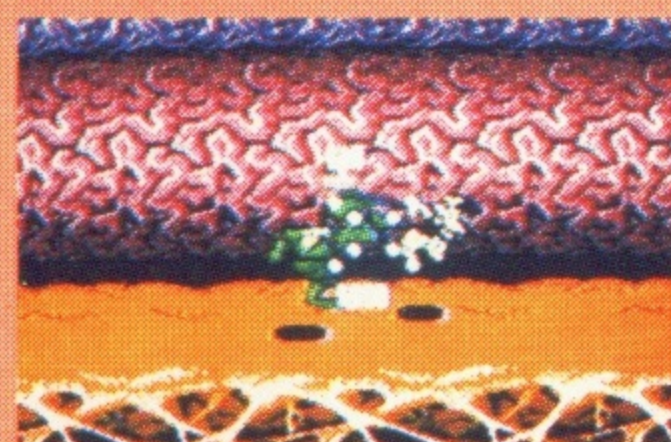
92%

BATTLE OF OLYMPUS

Run around the horizontally scrolling levels that are Ancient Greece, solving various puzzles and beating up mythological beasts in this worthwhile RPG. The only gripe we have with this is that it's a bit lacking in the action department, making Zelda II the definite RPG to go for.

OVERALL

79%



BATTLETOADS

Join Rash, Zitz and Pimple - the Battletoads! These dudes are out to smash the evil Dark Queen over a number of beat 'em up and shoot 'em up levels. Battletoads is a truly outstanding piece of software, with brilliant graphics, stomping sounds and ultra-addictive gameplay. Rare come up trumps AGAIN with another essential Nintendo game!

OVERALL

93%

BASEBALL

One of the most popular sports of the United States hits the NES! All of the fun and excitement of Baseball is here, but unfortunately, Nintendo Baseball has a number of faults in the gameplay department. The actual pace of the game is relatively slow and a tad unresponsive. The graphics are cack too. Not recommended.

OVERALL

60%

BIONIC COMMANDO

Super Joe Crack, the star of Commando (Capcom's old coin-op hit) has been captured behind enemy lines, and only the Bionic Commando can save him by fighting through many platform and shoot 'em up levels. This game actually has levels that weren't in the coin-op, but the high difficulty level could put some players off.

OVERALL

81%

BLACK MANTA

A mysterious bunch of criminals maladepts have kidnapped a load of kids for some reason, and your mission in this game is to take on the mantle of the Black Manta and dust some monkey ass! The gameplay is varied and fun, but the graphics just really aren't up to scratch.

OVERALL

80%

BLADES OF STEEL

Don't be misled by the title - this is an Ice Hockey sim with a mini beat 'em up included when things get rough on the pitch! Multiple skill levels and different options keep things interesting for solo players, but the excitement is at maximum with two players at the controls. Overall an excellent sports game.

OVERALL

85%



BLASTER MASTER

Scrolling mazes and scrolling shoot 'em up skylarking meet head on in this completely fabulous cart. Your best friend (that happens to be a toad) has fallen down a big hole, so you've decided to follow him in a quest into the unknown. Blaster Master has loads of different levels to explore, along with highly addictive action, making for yet another essential Nintendo purchase!

OVERALL

91%

BOULDERDASH

Join the little miner known as Rockford who's stumbled on a number of diamond-crammed, scrolling mine shafts. He needs your help to negotiate these dangerous stages, collecting diamonds and dodging falling rocks. Boulderdash is a fab, taxing and original game that's destined to become a Nintendo classic.

OVERALL

90%

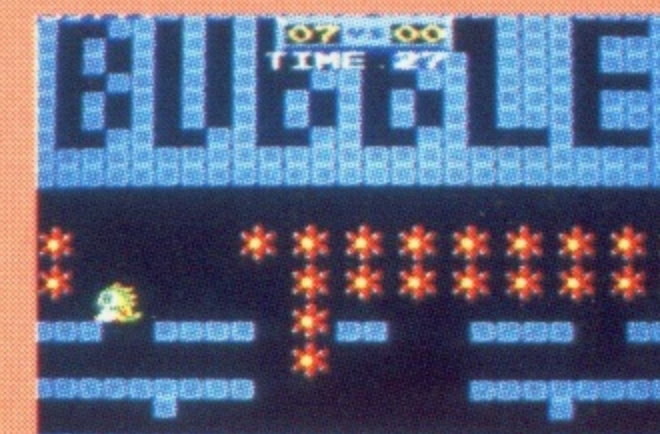


A BOY AND HIS BLOB

You're the boy whose blob-like pal can change into a number of interesting shapes and objects just by feeding him jellybeans (!). This comes in handy for solving the many platform-related puzzles that face the boy as he attempts to save blob-kind from an evil dictator. Fast, fun, original and taxing, A Boy And His Blob is skill!

OVERALL

91%



BUBBLE BOBBLE

Bub and Bob, the bubble-blowing dinosaurs are trapped in 100 meanie-filled platform levels. Luckily, the lads can neutralise the beasts by capturing them in bubbles then popping them to turn them into fruity bonus points! The graphics are a bit flickery, but the skill gameplay mores than makes up for it. A superb coin-op conversion.

OVERALL

89%

BUGS BUNNY'S BIRTHDAY BLOW-OUT

The 50-year-old cartoon rabbit crops up on the Nintendo in a game where he must collect tons of carrots and traverse platform levels in order to reach his birthday blow-out. This game has all the Loony Tunes villains, but unfortunately the childish graphics, jerky scrolling and simplistic gameplay do this game no favours.

OVERALL

35%

BURAI FIGHTER

It's time to jet off into deep space and face those evil aliens on their home grounds. This horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up is a good challenge, with plenty of destruction to spice up the gameplay. It could prove a bit hard for novice players, although the majority of you should find this to be a decent blaster well worth considering.

OVERALL

79%

CALIFORNIA GAMES

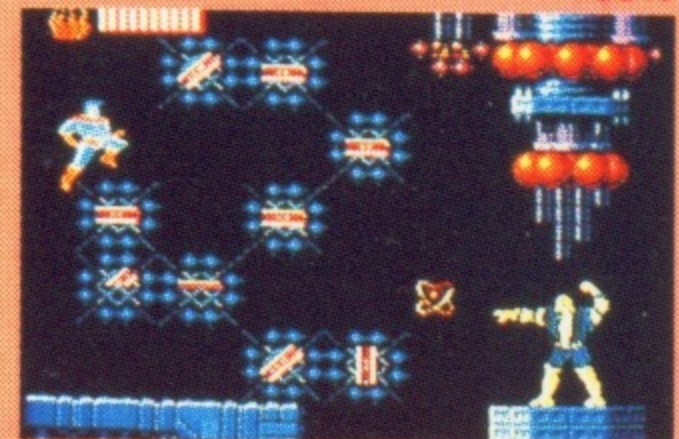
Make the stars of Beverly Hills 90210 look like anorak-clad trainspotters by taking part in the California Games. Half Pipe, BMX (!), Flying Disk, Footbag, Surfing and Roller Skating are the events included in this skillful Nintendo package. Great to play with friends,

California Games is an essential buy.
OVERALL 91%

CAPTAIN PLANET

Don the daunting mantle of the environmental saviour of the world, as he battles to save the world from environmental pollution, while rescuing a few seals and elephants into the bargain. The sub-levels of this game are a mixed bag. The shoot 'em up levels are far to difficult while the scrolling exploration bits are a doddle. The package as a whole is unremarkable.

OVERALL 56%



CAPTAIN SKYHAWK

Join the eponymous Captain as he flies around vertically scrolling shooting levels and Afterburner-style stages. This is another skillful Rare game that should appeal to blasting fans, although shoot 'em up experts may find it a tad easy.

OVERALL 90%

CASTLEVANIA

Simon Belmont is on the trail of Count Dracula. The game itself takes the form of a vast platform adventure set inside Drac's castle which Simon explores, punishing any undead types with his trusty whip. The audio-visuals aren't stunning, but the action is absorbing for a long while. Try out the sequel first though.

OVERALL 80%

CLU-CLU LAND

One of Nintendo's early efforts, Clu-Clu Land is a sort of PacMan clone set in grids of dots. However, unlike in PacMan, the idea in Clu-Clu Land is to direct your fish (?) between the dots, and thus reveal lines which make up a sort of Cubist join-the-dots picture. The simplistic gameplay is fun, but soon grows quite boring.

OVERALL 62%



COBRA TRIANGLE

Take the wheel of your speedboat and race your way through 25 races of isometric 3D scrolling fun, each with a different challenge. Cobra Triangle has it all. Great graphics, decent sound, but above all amazing playability. Another classic from Rare that deserves to end

up in your collection.

OVERALL 94%

DAYS OF THUNDER

Jump into your NASCAR racer and burn around a series of tracks with no right turns whatsoever in this NES conversion of the embarrassingly awful Tom Cruise movie. The graphics are okay but there's no real variety in them at all. The game itself is slow, tedious, annoying and frustrating.

OVERALL 39%

DEFENDER OF THE CROWN

Take a time warp to medieval England and attempt to become king by taking over various territories in this strategy game with arcade sub-levels. The problem here is that the strategy game isn't involving enough and the arcade bits just don't cut the mustard at all. Leave this on the shelf in the software shop, where it belongs.

OVERALL 59%



DIGGER T ROCK

At first glance, this game looks like being a thinly disguised Boulder Dash clone, but on closer examination it turns out to be an action-packed arcade puzzler that's highly recommended. Excellent graphics and swingsome sound are the icing on the cake.

OVERALL 89%

DONKEY KONG

Oh no! Mario's girlfriend has been kidnapped by a crazed gorilla! It's up to the Italian plumber to conquer four different levels of platform action. Donkey Kong isn't a bad coin-op conversion, but the original itself is years old and four screens of arcade action simply isn't enough to warrant the price tag.

OVERALL 45%

DONKEY KONG JUNIOR

Donkey Kong Junior's out to rescue his Dad from Mario's clutches in another four-screen platform romp, this time set in the jungle. Just like it's predecessor, Donkey Kong Jr isn't a bad conversion with a bit more variety than the original game. Unfortunately, Four screens' worth of action just isn't enough to give the player value for money.

OVERALL 46%

DOUBLE DRAGON

Your girlfriend's been kidnapped by Mr Big - the evil crime boss! It's down to you to kick the excrement of his cronies and then face up to the boss in the final confrontation. This game isn't a bad conversion, but the sequel has superior graphics and gameplay.

OVERALL 75%



DOUBLE DRAGON II

Dear oh dear. Your girlfriend has been gunned down by a revenge-crazed Mr Big. Therefore, it's down to the Double Dragons to go and kick some ass again. This conversion is a lot better than its predecessor, with decent graphics and enjoyable gameplay. Definitely the best Double Dragon game on the Nintendo.

OVERALL 84%

DOUBLE DRAGON III

Acclaim's third Double Dragon game contains all the scrolling beat 'em up mayhem you'd expect, along with more characters to control and larger levels. Unfortunately, the game is just too difficult to be worthwhile and the plodding response time doesn't help matters much either.

OVERALL 65%

DRAGON'S LAIR

Dirk the Daring's darling Daphne has been kidnapped by a big dragon and taken to his lair! Pausing only to grab his daggers, Dirk gives chase by entering the side-on scrolling castle - but many traps and meanies await. Dragon's Lair has excellent graphics, but the remarkably slow, plodding gameplay and unresponsive controls make this one to avoid.



DR MARIO

Mario's back in a Tetris-inspired puzzle game which sees him chucking different proteins into a beaker in order to make all the nasty viruses disappear. This is quite easy to begin with, the action gets meaner as you progress making for a truly exciting test of your reflexes and brain power. One of the best puzzle games for the NES.

OVERALL 88%

DUCK HUNT

There's not much you can say about this game. Dust off your Zapper gun and plug this cart in and you'll be confronted by wave upon wave of ducks, just waiting to be blown away with your fine Zapper gun. The graphics are quite cute, but just shooting off with your photon firearm isn't fun or varied enough to be worthwhile.

OVERALL 57%



DUCK TALES

Guide Scrooge McDuck through many scrolling platform levels in a bid to save his massive bank balance from a fate worse than Gary Harrod's financial affairs. This game features excellent cartoon graphics and very enjoyable gameplay. Once again, the NES comes up trumps with a skill platform game. Hurrah!

OVERALL 90%

EXCITEBIKE

Vroom! Get your leathers on and get ready to burn down one of the bumpiest motorcycle race tracks in history! The horizontal track scrolling is very nippy, providing a good feel of speed, but Excitebike's graphics and sound are a bit wobbly. However, these inadequacies only serve to make the whole game more of a laugh! Very challenging and well worth a try.

OVERALL 84%

FESTER'S QUEST

The Addams Family has seen something of a revival lately, and this NES game stars the talented Uncle Fester on a scroll-around quest to save the Earth. The graphics are samey and functional, but the sound is ace with a groovy remix of the Addams Family tune. The gameplay though, verges on the tedious after only a couple of sessions.

OVERALL 58%

GALAXY 5000

Speed around nine different isometric 3D tracks in this mega-fast, highly thrilling road race of the future. The graphics and sound are both top-notch, and although the scrolling's jerky you don't notice it in the thick of the action. Simultaneous two-player thrills are the icing on the superlative confection-related item.

OVERALL 91%



GAUNTLET II

Guide your medieval character through the hazard-ridden scrolling mazes, discharging death to the legions of evil minions that attack you. With all the graphics, gameplay, sound and speech of the coin-op, this release is a fab arcade conversion well worth investing in.

OVERALL 90%

GHOSTBUSTERS II

Once again, it's time to bust those ghosts in a series of sub-levels inspired by the spooky, and yet vaguely amusing film. The problem here is that the graphics are a mite cacky, and each mini-level does nothing to recreate the atmosphere of the film on your NES. All in all, a rapid game that's only fun for a very short while.

OVERALL 57%

GHOSTS 'N' GOBLINS

Sir Arthur was enjoying the canoodling company of his Princess when suddenly an evil devil kidnapped her! So he's got to run along scrolling levels, dusting undead sprites in preparation for the final conflict! This conversion boasts limp graphics and sound. The response is dodgy and the gameplay frustrating. Leave this well alone.

OVERALL 55%

GOAL!

The curse that hits NES soccer games claims another victim with the shambling debacle that is Jaleco's Goal! Featuring an ineffective isometric viewpoint, stick-men sprites and extremely annoying action, Goal! is best left alone.

OVERALL 33%

GOLF

As far as Golf games go, this Nintendo effort offers no surprises. Simply take your golfer around the video course, select your club, judge your shot and try to hole the ball. The graphics and sound aren't exactly spectacular, but this cart offers a very challenging, playable round of golf. Recommended to golfing fans.

OVERALL 76%

GRADIUS

Better known as Nemesis, this horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up has all the power-ups and levels of the ageing coin-op. Gradius is great fun to play and ranks as one of the greatest blasts available for the Nintendo along with its sequel, Life Force. If you're an NES laser-death fanatic, seek out Gradius immediately!

OVERALL 90%



GREMLINS II

Take a trip into the scroll-along blasting zone, this time accompanied by those irrepressible Gremlins. Programmed by Sunsoft, this Gremlins-inspired blasting game is packed with decent graphics, awesome sound and top-notch playability. Yet another good example of a Nintendo shoot 'em up.

OVERALL 87%

GUMSHOE

Play a private eye (complete with trilby and trenchcoat) in this platform-based crime buster. Gumshoe has to cross numerous Mario-esque levels to track down the villain of the piece. This Zapper gun game has excellent graphics and some jaunty tunes backing the action, but the simple action grows dull very quickly.

OVERALL 68%

GUNSMOKE

There are some no-good outlaws in town, so you're going to march around the vertically scrolling area blowing away all sorts of mean hombres. The coin-op was pretty mediocre, but this NES conversion is quite good fun. It's getting on a bit though, so blasting fans would do well to check out a more recent shoot 'em up.

OVERALL 69%

HOGAN'S ALLEY

Plug in the Zapper gun and get ready to pump some villains full of photons. This target-shooting game puts you at one end of a shooting range, with criminal cut-outs spinning around at the other end. Though this is graphically quite nice, Hogan's Alley's gameplay is very limited and most of the game's options seem to be exhausted after a few sessions' play.

OVERALL 60%

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER

The fabulous Sean Connery movie surfaces on the NES as a horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up. The game itself is good fun to play with a nice sense of inertia on the sub. The problem is that the graphics look rather infantile and the soundtrack is one of the most discordant, jarring monstrosities ever to plague the Nintendo. Bear with it though, and there's a fairly decent game to be uncovered.

OVERALL 64%

ICE CLIMBER

Ice Climber is a pretty basic game, the object being to control your Eskimo to the top of each vertically scrolling level while keeping an eye out for enemy sprites. This was one of the first NES releases and has primitive graphics, sound and gameplay. Even the simultaneous two-player action doesn't stave off the tedium.

OVERALL 58%

IKARI WARRIORS

Armed with just their machine guns and a stash of grenades, the players must guide their on-screen heroes through vertically scrolling enemy strongholds and blow everything up. This conversion has crap graphics and poor scrolling. The response is poor and the gameplay frustrating. Even Ikari fans will be disappointed with this.

OVERALL 48%

IRONSWORD

This follow-up to Wizards and Warriors is similar to its predecessor, with plenty of platform action and sword-slashing thrills. The main problem with this game

is that the gameplay is very tough, and coupled with the rather inspiring graphics, there's not much of an urge to see the next level. Ironsword is above average, but not totally amazing.

OVERALL 77%

ISOLATED WARRIOR

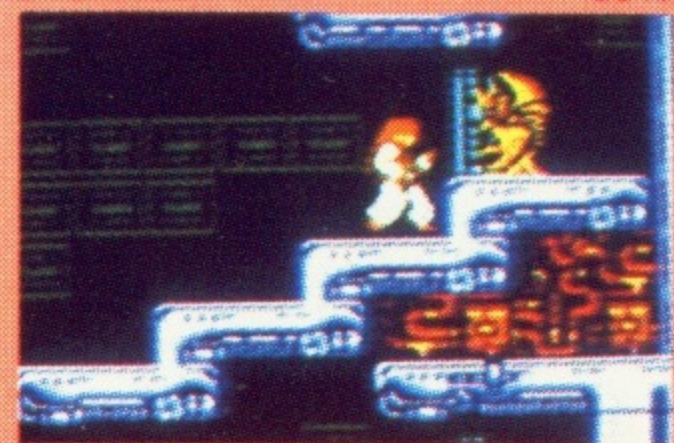
Become the Isolated Warrior as he runs up the isometrically scrolling 3D backgrounds, blasting enemy sprites with his multi-purpose weapon. Isolated Warrior is a great shoot 'em up packed with top-notch shooting excitement. Unfortunately, this is marred by the fact that it's very easy to complete.

OVERALL 80%

KICK OFF

Once again, the evil hex that plagues NES soccer sims strikes again in this conversion of the greatest computer football game ever. Kick Off retains all the brilliant options of the Amiga version, but the game logic is sadly lacking and there's plenty of minor bugs conspiring to ruin the game too. A great shame and a major disappointment.

OVERALL 36%



KABUKI

Kabuki's the man whose oriental hairstyle spells doom to a number of computer bugs that have infested America's finest defence system. Boasting dark and moody graphics and good sound, Kabuki is instantly appealing. The stiff challenge and great gameplay make it an excellent Shadow Warrior-style platform game.

OVERALL 90%

KID ICARUS

It's cutely platform game time as you guide Kid Icarus against an army of baddies who are just dying to clip his wings. It's pretty good fun, but the graphics are rather dated, and when you look at some of the more modern platform games around, this doesn't compare too well.

OVERALL 68%



JACKIE CHAN'S ACTION KUNG-FU

Hong Kong's foremost martial arts expert takes to the NES in a digital version of his silver screen shenanigans.

This is a great scrolling beat 'em up with cute graphics and rousing tunes. It's extremely playable too with many levels to conquer. Buy this!

OVERALL 93%

JACK NICKLAUS GOLF

The immortal Jack Nicklaus has endorsed what turns out to be a 3D golfing sim that slow, jerky and bug-ridden. Add these incredibly annoying factors with the pathetic graphics and miserable sound and we have a golf sim that's even over-shadowed by the ancient Nintendo Golf!

OVERALL 48%

KICKLE CUBICLE

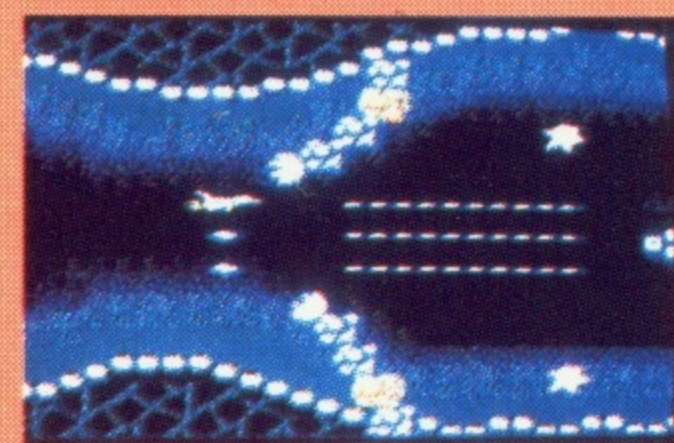
This game is rather similar to Adventures of Lolo, in that you run around a single-screen maze pushing blocks and squashing meanies. Kickle Cubicle would be an excellent puzzle cum action game, but it's just too easy to complete.

OVERALL 72%

KUNG-FU

This game weighs in as a conversion of that ageing Data East coin-op, Kung-Fu Master (remember that?). There are four levels of horizontally scrolling badie-bashing included in this Nintendo translation. This might not sound a lot, but the tough, challenging gameplay is quite a laugh. Worth a look for beat 'em fans.

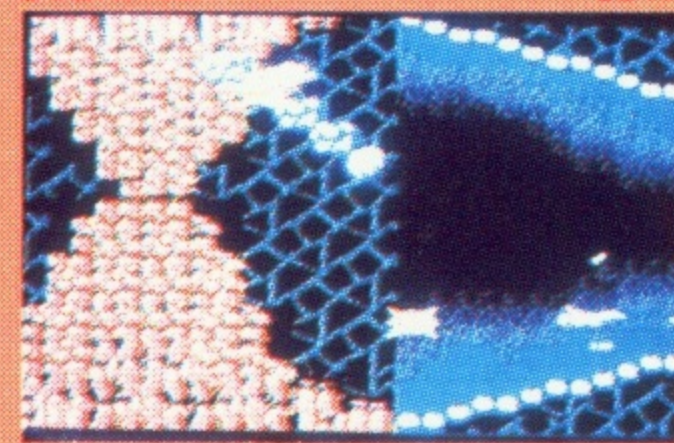
OVERALL 72%



LIFE FORCE

This is a brilliant version of the Salamander coin-op, with both vertically and horizontally scrolling action. It's not just the smart scenery and amazing aliens that set Life Force apart from other Nintendo blasts. With its amazingly addictive destructive action AND two-player action, this is one ace 'n' skill shoot 'em up!

OVERALL 92%



LEGEND OF ZELDA

This was Nintendo's first RPG, but its simple format makes it far more accessible than most games of this type. With its battery back-up, this game should provide hours of enjoyment for anybody, so even though it's one of the

more expensive carts, it's well worth a look.

OVERALL 86%

LOW-G MAN

Once again, we're all aboard the last train to Platform Central, with Low-G Man (so called, because he can jump incredibly high). This game has jerky graphics and wobbly sound, but somehow the urge to see the next level is very high indeed. Although not an essential purchase, give Low-G Man a good, hard look.

OVERALL 84%

MACH RIDER

This is an early Road Blasters clone, in which you have to drive your motorcycle down numerous stretches of highway, zapping any of the other aggressive drivers who get in your way. The official NES Road Blasters conversion isn't really up to much but this lookalike is even worse. The graphics are laughable and the gameplay extremely dull. Leave this well alone.

OVERALL 36%



MANIAC MANSION

Lucasfilm's first icon-driven adventure is a real classic. It's got great graphics, extremely involving gameplay and logical puzzles - things which its competitor, Shadowgate woefully lacks. Maniac Mansion is a worthy NES purchase, but the high price tag (around £50.00) is a bit of a bum rap.

OVERALL 89%



MARBLE MADNESS

In this Rare conversion of the brilliant Atari coin-op, you guide a marble around six different isometrically scrolling courses, dodging many bizarre hazards. The programmers have produced a coin-op conversion that's as close to the original as is possible with the Nintendo. Only the lack of levels is the slight downer.

OVERALL 85%

MARIO BROTHERS

In this single-screen platform game, Mario and Luigi (this is a one or two-player game) have to run around punching the gantries under the critters to knock them on their backs, and then jump up to the same level and boot

them off-screen. It's a nice, cute, simple game, but only truly worthwhile in two-player mode.

OVERALL 83%

MEGAMAN

It's down to MegaMan to go through six levels of incredibly addictive scrolling platform action, blasting meanies. Each level is guarded by a terrifying robotic end-of-level boss. Mega Man is one of the most difficult, and yet still rewarding platform games available for the NES.

OVERALL 92%



MEGAMAN II

The evil Dr Wily is back for another slapping at the hands of the world's greatest hero, MegaMan! This boils down to more incredibly addictive scrolling platform action. Although it's not as lastable as its prequel, MegaMan II boasts playability that puts many 16-bit games of the same ilk to shame. An essential purchase.

OVERALL 93%

METAL GEAR

Nice graphics and ultra-violent gameplay make this an interesting game to play, but only for a while. It turns out to be more of a giant maze game than a shoot 'em up, and the unchanging scenery of tanks and buildings makes one screen look pretty much like another. Not a game to put high on your shopping list.

OVERALL 52%

METROID

Metroid is a graphically impressive, very cleverly put-together arcade adventure with lots of unusual features to keep things interesting. It's a tough game and ardent platform/adventure fans will love it.

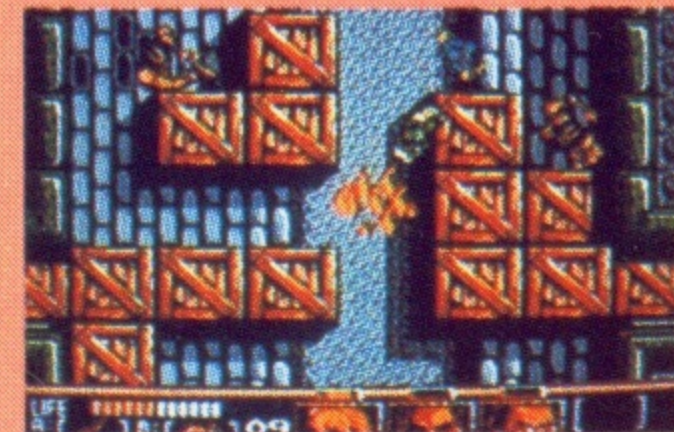
OVERALL 80%



MIKE TYSON'S PUNCH-OUT!!!

With its superb graphics and playability, Punch Out!!! is the greatest boxing game yet seen on any home system and is a vital addition to your collection. So grab it before it disappears, which it might well do considering what's happened to Mike...

OVERALL 94%



MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

This viewed-from-above maze game with espionage overtones casts you as a secret agent, out to overthrow a subversive world-threatening organisation. The graphics and sound are both very effective, and the gameplay itself is addictive and whole lot of fun. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 86%

NEW ZEALAND STORY

Poor old Tiki - all of his kiwi chums have been kidnapped by a bloated Walrus! So, Tiki needs your help in running around the platform levels, shooting meanies and rescuing kiwis! This conversion is visually very similar to the Taito coin-op, and the sound is actually better! Unfortunately, the game is just too easy to complete.

OVERALL 79%

NINTENDO WORLD CUP

There's something of a curse on the poor old Nintendo when it comes to soccer games. Nintendo World Cup is a dire shambles, with rancid, flickery graphics, warbling sounds and very limp gameplay. Even when playing with four player with the Four Score adaptor, Nintendo World Cup is a sad digital interpretation of soccer.

OVERALL 33%

PAPERBOY

Guide your paperboy through seven levels of scrolling isometric mayhem in this conversion of the pensionable Atari coin-op. Paperboy "boasts" retarded, infantile graphics, grotesque colour schemes, a booming cacophony of sounds and frustrating gameplay. The awful responsiveness is yet another nail in the MFI-quality coffin. Avoid!

OVERALL 30%

PINBALL

This is a real Nintendo oldie, and has been completely eclipsed by the immeasurably superior Pinbot, which is based on a real pinball table. Unless you're after a particularly substandard pinball game for your Nintendo, avoid.

OVERALL 45%

PINBOT

Rare's conversion of the topper Williams pinball table is excellent, with all the steel ball spanging-related excitement of the original. With excellent graphics, unbelievable sound, along with brilliant playability, this is one fabbo game!

OVERALL 90%

POPEYE

This conversion is a good translation of the original coin-op, but it's the coin-

op's simplicity that severely limits Popeye's powers of lastability. It'll keep you busy for a while, but unfortunately, the novelty soon wears off.

OVERALL 67%



POWERBLADE

It's a return to Platformville, Arizona in this scrolling game with shoot 'em up elements. Although Powerblade is exceptionally unoriginal, the graphics and sound are fine for this sort of game. What really gives Powerblade its respectable mark is its fun and challenging gameplay.

OVERALL 88%



PROBOTECTOR

Don't be fooled by the name - this is the official NES version of Gyrzor, the great horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up. All the levels of the coin-op are here and the blasting action is fast and furious. A great NES blast.

OVERALL 81%

PRO WRESTLING

Pro Wrestling isn't quite as exciting as the real sport. The graphics are laughable with pathetic sprites and background visuals, and the sound isn't really any better either, sporting very weak spot effects. Our advice is to go for Tecmo World Wrestling. It's got better graphics, better sound and a huge amount of moves on offer.

OVERALL 45%

RAD RACER

This is quite a few years old now, and surprisingly, it's still the only Out Run-style game available on the NES. Actually, any new one would have a hard time beating Rad Racer in the playability stakes. The smart 3D graphics make this look good and play good, so if driving games are your bag, this is a must.

OVERALL 80%

RAD GRAVITY

Strut around the universe with the coolest intergalactic hero of them all, Rad Gravity. It's up to Rad to run around platform levels looking for co-ordinates for new planets to visit. Rad Gravity is a cool platform game, with nice blasting elements added in for good measure. Recommended for plat-

form fans after a challenge.

OVERALL

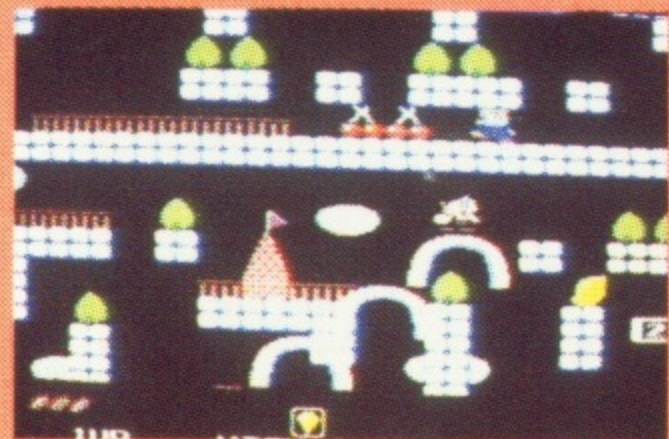
82%

RAINBOW ISLANDS

Oh no! The Rainbow Islands have been occupied by the Boss of Shadow, Baron von Blubba and his nasty little minions. It's up to Bub and his power of the rainbow to put a stop to Blubba's skylarking over seven levels of vertically scrolling platform action. This is a good conversion of the Taito coin-op, ruined by slow gameplay and poor response.

OVERALL

67%



RC PRO-AM

RC Pro-AM is one of the most playable NES titles around. Both the graphics and sound are spot-on and there's plenty of action to keep you going for a long time as you race a variety of radio controlled vehicles around a series of very tight tracks against mad computer drivers. A must!

OVERALL

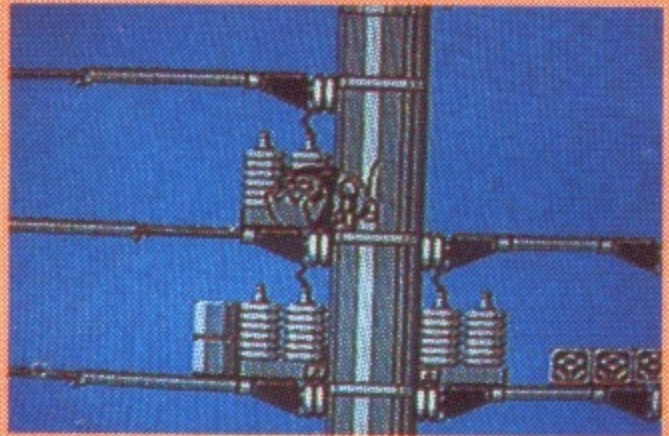
90%

RESCUE

Based on the French computer game, Hostages, this is a multi-level assault game, casting you as leader of a bunch of SAS guys out to ruin some terrorists' plans for world domination and rescue (hence the title) some hostages. The graphics and sound are poor, but the real problem with Rescue is that each sub-level is very dull and too easy to complete.

OVERALL

41%



RESCUE RANGERS

Those cheeky chipmunks, Chip 'n' Dale hit the Nintendo in a platform game of their very own, programmed by coin-op giants, Capcom. With one or simultaneous two-player options, Rescue Rangers is fast, smooth, cute and playable. A very good game that should appeal to platform fans.

OVERALL

88%

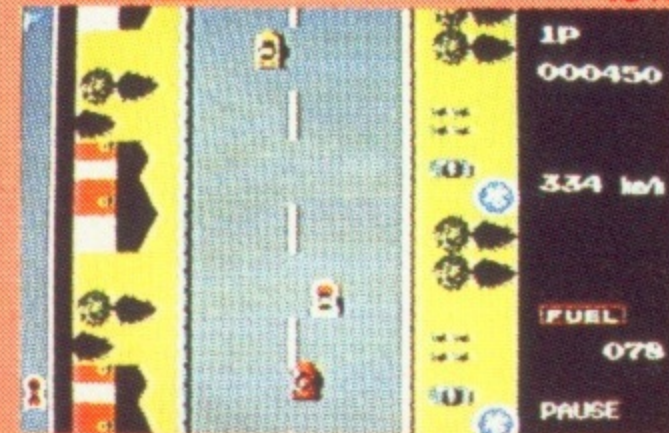
ROAD BLASTERS

If you were a fan of arcade Road Blasters this conversion may come as a disappointment. The graphics and sound are fairly well reproduced, but it certainly doesn't play the same. It's just far too easy, and any competent player

should get through all 50 levels in a few games. Once completed, Road Blasters doesn't have much to attract you back for more.

OVERALL

48%



ROAD FIGHTER

Brace yourself for what must rank as the worst console game EVER! Road Fighter is a vertically scrolling road race game a little like Spy Hunter, but without the extra weapons, decent graphics or gameplay. Indeed, the scabrous, retarded game we have here is devoid of all fun and excitement-inducing qualities and is a complete waste of money.

OVERALL

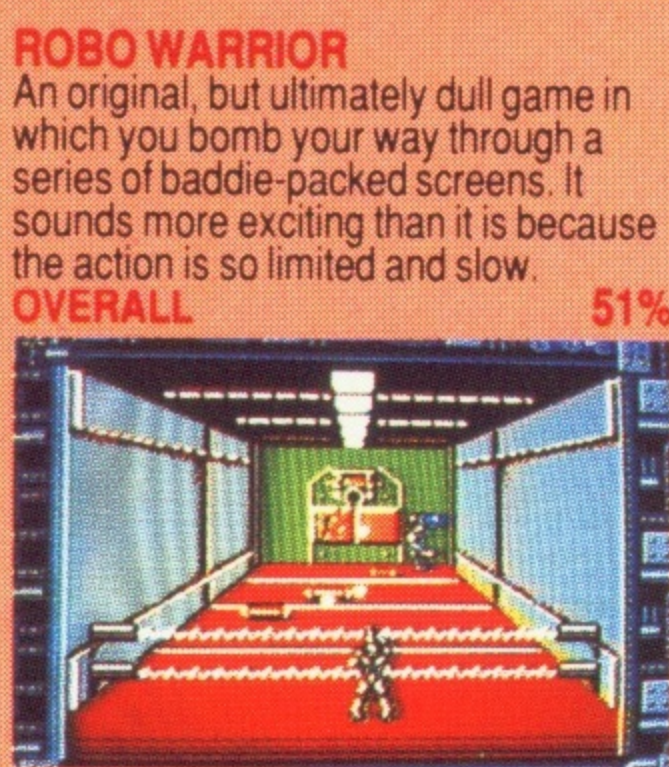
9%

ROBOCOP

The film's great, but this game is sad. Rubbish graphics, dire sound, sluggish controls and very repetitive gameplay don't make things much fun in this platform game. Considering the all-action movie, a lot more should have been made of this.

OVERALL

60%



RUSH 'N' ATTACK

Otherwise known as Green Beret, this is a fairly simplistic but very compulsive beat 'em up packed with senseless violence. The graphics and sound are adequate rather than outstanding, but they do the job and help make this a bloody, enjoyable rough-house romp.

OVERALL

83%

RYGAR

The graphics in this beat 'em up are okay-dokey and the gameplay is fairly interesting (thanks to the nice weapons), but on the whole, Rygar is probably only worth buying if you remember enjoying the coin-op.

OVERALL

70%

SECTION Z

If you've ever wished for a Side Arms-

type game for the NES, this is probably the nearest thing to it, though don't take that as a recommendation. The game is severely lacking in excitement just because it's so repetitive and the weapons are completely weedy. Save your money and your sanity.

OVERALL

46%



720 DEGREES

This is a very decent conversion of the old Atari skateboarding coin-op which sports plenty of challenge and variety. A must for fans of the coin-op and skateboarders in general.

OVERALL

84%

SHADOWGATE

Shadowgate is an icon-driven adventure game crammed with frustrating puzzles and thousands of unfair sudden death scenarios. The solutions to each puzzle are completely illogical (OPEN a skull to find a key? We think not), making for an annoying adventure with crappy graphics and nauseating sound to boot.

OVERALL

26%

SHADOW WARRIOR

Join Ryu as he runs around the scrolling platforms levels, meting out ninja death to the evil minions of the Overlord. Converted from the coin-op, this a great slash 'em up that's well-presented with groovy graphics and sound. This is challenging and superb fun and well worth your pounds sterling.

OVERALL

90%



SILENT SERVICE

A submarine simulation? On the NES? Yes indeed, and while it might sound boring, it's not. It's addictive and involved and is a must for those who want to use their Nintendo to play more than just platform games and shoot 'em ups.

OVERALL

87%

SIMON'S QUEST

On the surface, Simon's Quest isn't much more than an extended version of the original with a few additions to the gameplay. Having said that, the original was pretty good, so the follow-up can only be even better. There's not a lot of variety, but hardened arcade adventure

fans should find the gloomy atmosphere is most engrossing.

OVERALL

85%

SKATE OR DIE

Skate or Die is divided into five different sections: the downhill race, freestyle on a half-pipe, downhill jam where you fight an opponent, half-pipe high jump and pool joust where you battle other players. It's a fun game with great graphics and is highly recommended to board thrashers.

OVERALL

82%

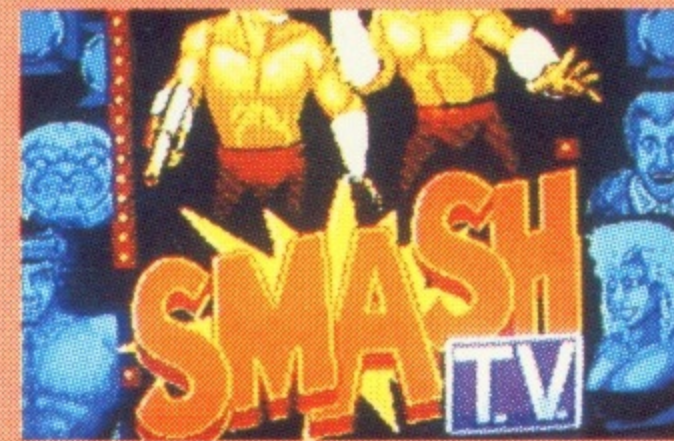


SMASH TV

Williams' amazing shoot 'em up coin-op, based on the classic Robotron 2084, is one of the most violent games in history! This NES conversion is a technical miracle with loads of sprites on-screen at once! The game also incorporates all the speech and power-ups of the coin-op too. One of the best Nintendo shooters available!

OVERALL

90%



SNAKE, RATTLE 'N' ROLL

Guide your snake around the forced 3D backdrops, eating nibbley-pibbles and dodging a number of bizarre sprites. Rare strike again with an extremely playable, technically amazing Nintendo game that simply demands purchase!

OVERALL

94%

SNAKE'S REVENGE

Snake (the hero of Metal Gear) is back, and this time he's vowed to destroy a jungle-based legion of enemies. This generally involved running around the jungle (for jungle, read maze), blowing away enemies and rescuing hostages. Snake's Revenge is extremely difficult to play, slow, unrewarding and tedious.

OVERALL

49%

SOCCER

The action in this football game is a little slow, and the graphics are only adequate but it plays quite while and that's what counts. And even though it's positively ancient, it's still miles better than all the newer Nintendo football games.

OVERALL

83%



SOLAR JETMAN

The action is very similar to the old coin-op Gravitar, but there's much more to Solar Jetman as you explore a series of planets looking for pieces of the Golden Warpship. The playability is superlative, the graphics are great and the sound is similarly excellent. Put all those factors together and you've got a simply brilliant Nintendo title which is an essential part of your collection.

OVERALL

95%

SOLOMON'S KEY

This is an excellent conversion of the Data East coin-op, which is one of the best arcade puzzle games out. If you're after some mental stimulation from your Nintendo this has got to be somewhere on the shopping list.

OVERALL

83%

SOLSTICE

This is the first game from English firm, Software Creations, and it's a goodie! Guide your little man around the forced perspective backdrops, solving puzzles and blatting meanies. With its excellent graphics, amazing sound and involving gameplay, Solstice is an essential purchase.

OVERALL

90%

SPY VS SPY

Based on the MAD magazine comic strips, Spy vs Spy is one of the finest two-player games ever, just because of the vast potential for playing super-sneaky tricks on your computer, or better still, human opponent. It doesn't have the best graphics and sound in the world, but if you have another gamer at hand willing to play you, this is a must.

OVERALL

84%

SUPER MARIO BROTHERS

Originally this was the game Nintendo gave away free with the machine - and what a terrific freebie! It's a truly classic platform game that's just so skillfully put together and is so much fun that once you've started playing it's impossible to stop. One of the best games anywhere, ever.

OVERALL

95%

SUPER MARIO BROTHERS II

This is a superb follow-up to Super Mario Brothers, with terrific graphics, great music and super addictive platform gameplay. An utter must - along with all the other Mario games.

OVERALL

96%



SUPER MARIO BROTHERS III

Mario and Luigi return for their last 8-bit outing - and it's one of the finest video games ever devised. Featuring almost-perfect playability, excellent graphics and sound along with a massive challenge, Super Mario Bros III is THE essential cart to buy for your Nintendo.

OVERALL

98%

SUPER OFF-ROAD

Ivan "Ironman" Stewart's Super Off-Road is a superior Super Sprint-style NES game, that's great fun when playing with the four-player Four Score adaptor. It's yet another skill Rare game, and a very close coin-op conversion. The repetitive nature of the game may put some people off, especially when played in one-player mode.

OVERALL

81%

SUPER SPIKE VOLLEYBALL

Visit the beaches of America to participate in a series of Volleyball matches in this cool sports sim. With its Four Score compatibility allowing up to four players to take part, Super Spike Volleyball is a great game that should appeal to most sports fans.

OVERALL

83%

STAR WARS

One of the greatest sci-fi movies EVER hits the Nintendo in a truly spectacular fashion! Star Wars features many different game styles (3D blasting, platform and scrolling blasting action) each depicting a scene from the movie. Although the price tag is very high (£50.00), Star Wars remains the best thing since Mario III.

OVERALL

95%

TEENAGE MUTANT HERO TURTLES

Although they're now tragically uncool, Turtles is a fun game that provides plenty of beat 'em up action, a hint of exploration and taxes your brains too as you rescue April O'Neil. Worth checking out.

OVERALL

86%

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: THE ARCADE GAME

Take control of the bygone heroes in a half-shell in this simultaneous two-player game based on one of the most popular coin-ops ever. Turtles II is a very close conversion, but when it comes down to it, there isn't much in the game and the repetitive action soon grows stale.

OVERALL

64%

TENNIS

The graphics aren't the greatest and there's not much sound to speak of, but Nintendo Tennis is quite playable. It's the only Tennis game available on the NES anyway, so if you want to hold Wimbledon indoors next year, it's either this or nothing.

OVERALL 75%

TEN-YARD FIGHT

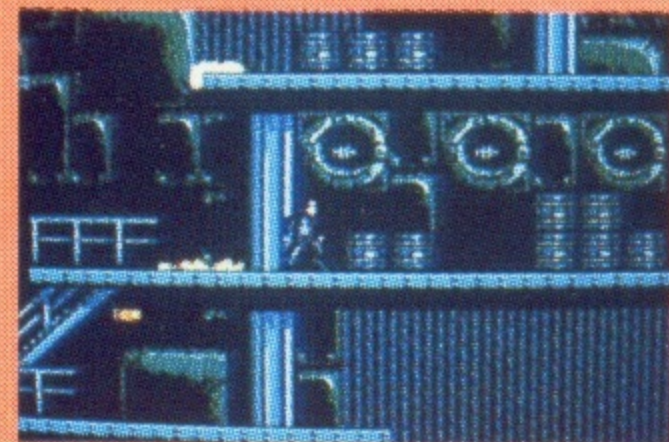
A conversion of the old Irem coin-op, this is one of the only arcade-style American football games available on any machine. It's simple, but fun and is worth looking at if you're new to American football and want to learn more about the sport.

OVERALL 76%

TERMINATOR II

One of the greatest movies of all time could've been an NES game to end them all. Unfortunately, what you get are five limited levels, most of which are set around a tedious platform environment. The game isn't awful - it's just dull and very unoriginal. For die-hard movie fans only.

OVERALL 72%

**TETRIS**

This block-based mind-teaser is the greatest puzzle game ever written. It looks naff, sounds naff... but play it and you'll be instantly hooked.

OVERALL 91%

TIGER HELI

This is a fairly straightforward up-the-screen blast in which the player pilots a heavily-armed combat chopper. The graphics are pretty samey throughout the entire game, the sound is equally bland and the gameplay is only average. Not the greatest of shoot 'em ups.

OVERALL 65%

TIME LORD

This game has a great idea and plot, but the overall execution is a tad lacking and the game itself lacks the kind of excitement we'd come to expect from an MB Games cartridge.

OVERALL 60%

TOP GUN

Though this wouldn't take anyone's breath away, the 3D combat is quite exciting, and requires a fair bit of joystick skill. The graphics aren't bad at all, and on the whole, this is a smart game. If you yearn for something flight simulatorish on your Nintendo, check this one out.

OVERALL 79%

TOP GUN II

You ARE Maverick - the Top Gun of the

title, and it's your aim to take to the skies, complete a number of missions and blow up all the MiGs you can in the process. Top Gun II is not recommended because the graphics are extremely awful and the gameplay is very dull indeed. Only the one-on-one two-player mode is a good laugh.

OVERALL 51%

TO THE EARTH

This is the most recent of the Zapper gun titles, and it's probably the best of the lot. Very nice graphics and plenty of other neat presentation features set this apart from the other light gun games, so if you've got a Zapper, check it out.

OVERALL 80%

TURBO RACING

The NES is not well catered for when it comes to road racers, so it's nice to see a good, fast action-filled effort like Turbo Racing. Although the graphics are a bit rough, this is more than made up for by the exciting gameplay. Check it out.

OVERALL 80%

TRACK AND FIELD II

Featuring a massive 15 events (hurdles, pole vault, hammer throw, archery, clay pigeon, pistol shooting, canoeing, hang-gliding, Taekwondo, fencing and arm wrestling), this is graphically and sonically superb. With multi-player action and plenty of tough and challenging button-bashing gameplay, this is a sports sim no Nintendo owner should miss.

OVERALL 90%

TROG

Trog is a PacMan-style coin-op (two girls are playing it in the arcade scene in Terminator II) which depicts you as a caveman out to save his eggs (???) from various prehistoric terrors. The graphics are well-animated and very cute, but no amount of presentation can disguise the simplistic gameplay.

OVERALL 70%

TROJAN

This is quite a decent beat 'em up, (converted from a popular coin-op of yesteryear) but though the graphics are fine, the gameplay is a bit dull. A few more powerful weapons would have helped make this above-average quality game into something quite special.

OVERALL 72%

URBAN CHAMPION

Urban Champion is a fairly ordinary beat 'em up in which you fight a variety of foes. The graphics are rather dull, and it doesn't take long before this four-year-old game gets rather boring. If you're after a good beat 'em up, check out something like Double Dragon instead.

OVERALL 54%

WILD GUNMAN

If you've got a zapper gun, stick it into your holster and ride into town and battle a bunch of merciless hoodlums who've been whoopin' it up and scarin'

all the townsfolk. The graphics are colourful and bright, and the aim is to simply blast away as many bad dude cowboys as possible. It's quite good fun, but gets a bit boring after a while.

OVERALL 67%

WIZARDS AND WARRIORS

This is a smart-looking, but simplistic platform game which requires an awful lot of jumping skills and little else which all gets a bit monotonous after a while. There are several superior platform games available on the NES, the Mario games for example, and the Megaman series.

OVERALL 72%

WORLD WRESTLING

This has got well-animated graphics, plenty of moves and enjoyable gameplay, and while it doesn't feature the characters from WWF like the official title does, we still think it's the best wrestling game on the NES.

OVERALL 84%

WRECKING CREW

The graphics are simple, but nicely drawn and the soundtracks are superb, making this platform hammer 'em up a treat to play. It's not easy, and there are loads of screens and even a designer option if you want to try and make your own!

OVERALL 81%

WWF SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING

Leap into the ring of the All-American World Wrestling Federation along with all your favourite wrestlers from the popular TV series. This version of WWF is good fun for a while, but it's a tad easy and only the two-player option really gives you great value for money.

OVERALL 80%

XEVIOUS

The original coin-op's best feature was its pretty graphics, and these haven't been translated too well to the comparatively chunky-pixelled NES, so all you're left with is a passable, but hardly exciting up-the-screen blast.

OVERALL 65%

ZELDA II: ADVENTURE OF LINK

This RPG-style game is absolutely vast - much bigger than the original - and it's graphically superior too. The gameplay is also beefed up with magic and beat 'em up-style swordplay, and again, the cartridge comes with a battery game-save system. This is the Nintendo's top RPG, and one of the most enjoyable on any system. Make sure you give it a try.

OVERALL 94%

688 ATTACK SUB

An excellent submarine simulation which gives you ten missions to complete as a US sub commander, and six as a Russian. Although it sounds dull, it's a very compelling game and is thoroughly recommended to someone who's after something different (with plenty of "depth" - ho! ho!).

OVERALL 88%

AEROBLASTERS

A fairly easy-to-complete one or simultaneous two-player horizontally scrolling blast. The graphics, sound and playability are all excellent, but that low challenge factor means it can only be recommended to shoot 'em up novices.

OVERALL 78%

**AFTERBURNER II**

All the thrills and spills of the original machine have been included as you fly your fighter through 23 missions of amazingly smooth and fast 3D action. The sound is also terrific, with a variety of thumping good rock soundtracks and great sampled speech. If you're an Afterburner fan, this is the best conversion you're ever likely to play.

OVERALL 90%

AIR DIVER

Similar to Afterburner, with more variety, but much worse graphics. The 3D is fast, but the update is jerky and the plane doesn't handle realistically. There's certainly plenty to do, but unless you're prepared to persevere with the dodgy controls, try something else.

OVERALL 69%

ALEX KIDD IN THE ENCHANTED CASTLE

The graphics and sound are almost Master System standard, and while it's fun to play, with plenty of secret rooms and things to work out, it lacks that really addictive spark that makes the 8-bit Sega Alex Kidd games so much fun to play. For ardent Alex Kidd fans only.

OVERALL 68%

ALIEN STORM

An absolutely outstanding conversion of the coin-op, with great graphics and highly enjoyable one or two-player action. The big problem is that it's just too easy. For some unknown reason, the import version is harder, but even then it's not that difficult to finish. Those new to the Megadrive scene will really enjoy the action - experts, though, are warned that they might just find themselves finishing this prematurely.

OVERALL 78%

ALISIA DRAGON

An enjoyable and very original platform

shoot 'em up with mythological overtones. The playing area is huge and there are loads of secret screens to find. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 87%

ALTERED BEAST

"Free" with Official UK Megadrives, Altered Beast is a spot-on conversion of the coin-op. The trouble is, the arcade game wasn't exactly a smash-hit - it's a very simple beat 'em up with only five levels. The gameplay is very samey, and it doesn't take long to get all the way through the game. It's okay as a freebie, though.

OVERALL 67%

ARNOLD PALMER'S GOLF

This is a pretty decent golf sim. Featuring a variety of options, excellent graphics (the 3D viewpoint and the animation on the large golfer sprite are both superb) and a very tough course indeed, Arnold Palmer's Golf will appeal to golf and sports simulation fans alike.

OVERALL 85%

ARROW FLASH

A dull and uninteresting horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up which is made even worse by a complete lack of challenge. There are tons of better Megadrive blasters, so shop around rather than waste your cash on this.

OVERALL 46%

ASSAULT SUIT LEYNOS

This strange sort of platform-cum-shoot 'em up puts you in control of a multi-be-weaponed space commando. While the graphics and sound are very good, the gameplay borders on frustrating - there are loads of things to shoot down and the control method is very fiddly, so unless you're prepared to stick with it, you won't get full enjoyment from the game.

OVERALL 73%

ATOMIC ROBO KID

There are four different power-ups to collect in this accurate multidirectionally scrolling coin-op conversion. The gameplay is tough enough to keep you coming back for more. Check it out if you're after a no-frills blast with the emphasis on pure destruction.

OVERALL 82%

AXIS FZ

A very unusual and original forced perspective 3D blaster in which you control a armoured robot who patrols the multidirectionally scrolling landscape in search of things to blow up. It's great fun and is highly recommended if you can find it.

OVERALL 84%

BACK TO THE FUTURE III

A four-level game based on the popular film. The graphics and sound are both excellent, and what's there is fun and enjoyable. The only trouble is that it's fairly easy, and therefore only Megadrive beginners will get full value out of it.

OVERALL 77%

BATMAN

The graphics and sound are truly tremendous and there's a range of thumping good rock tracks to accompany the platform action. The only problem is that the game is fairly easy to beat, so platform experts be warned.

OVERALL 83%

BATTLE SQUADRON

A tough, frantic and noisy one or simultaneous two-player up-the-screen blaster. Although it's pretty much devoid of original features, it's a fun game and lays down a challenge to test even the most experienced of shooting fanatics.

OVERALL 80%

BIMINI RUN

A rather naff 3D shoot 'em up in which you pilot a speedboat through enemy-infested waters. The graphics aren't much cop and the gameplay isn't any better, and after a sessions it all becomes rather tedious.

OVERALL 45%

BLOCK OUT

This sort of 3D Tetris is surely the finest Megadrive puzzle game available. Packed with tons of options (including a simultaneous two-player mode) and featuring highly addictive gameplay, this is a must for your collection.

OVERALL 91%

BONANZA BROS

Like Alien Storm, this is another superb conversion which is let down by the fact that it's just too easy. The two-player action is fun, but at the end of the day what you need is a challenge, and unless you're a games novice, this simply fails to deliver.

OVERALL 73%

**BUCK ROGERS**

Looks and sounds boring, but this massive RPG-style game is far from that. With loads of missions to complete and tons of variety in the gameplay, this has enough pace and action to appeal to everyone!

OVERALL 91%

BUDOKAN

Billed correctly as a "thinking man's beat 'em up", this graphically and sonically superb oriental fighting game lets you take out your aggression with four different martial arts skills - nunchuka, bo, karate and kendo. With over 25 moves per art and 12 very tough opponents, Budokan isn't a game you'll master overnight.

OVERALL 89%

BURNING FORCE

Very much in the Space Harrier mould, this 3D shoot 'em up puts you in the

seat of a high-powered jet-bike. It sounds good, but unfortunately the gameplay gets rather repetitive after a while.



CALIFORNIA GAMES

A brilliant looking, supremely playable, multi-player game that features roller-skating, skateboarding, hackey-sacking, BMX-ing and surfing. A must for sports fans.

OVERALL 91%

CENTURION

An interesting-sounding but ultimately tedious and frustrating strategy-style game which unless you're completely into Roman History fails to provide entertainment worthy of its price tag.

OVERALL 52%

COLUMNS

Sega's answer to Tetris, this puzzle game is excellent. There's a huge variety of options, including arcade-style time trials, three different difficulty settings, nine different starting levels and a two-player head-to-head mode which adds to the game's lasting appeal.

OVERALL 88%

CRACKDOWN

Another one of those very good, but all-too-easy arcade conversions. The two-player aspect is fun, and the game is enjoyable to play but the lack of challenge means that only a videogame novice will get his money's worth.

OVERALL 65%

CURSE

While Curse is fun to play, it suffers from a lack of originality and levels (there are only five). Try out other shoot 'em ups like Hellfire or Gynoug.

OVERALL 70%

CYBERBALL

A decent conversion of the multi-player American football coin-op which features robots instead of humans. Cyberball sports neat graphics but has been overshadowed by John Madden's Football. It's not bad, but check out Madden's first.

OVERALL 80%

DANGEROUS SEED

Oh dear. Sad graphics, rubbish sound, complete lack of originality and no challenge make this horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up tragedy one to avoid at all costs.

OVERALL 40%

DARK CASTLE

THE worst Megadrive game yet seen. Dark Castle is a laughably dire platform

travesty whose only redeeming feature is its unintentionally hilarious sampled sound. Don't even think about buying this unless you're a demented baboon.

OVERALL 23%

DARIUS II

A very stylish horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up which sports tremendous graphics and seven completely different endings, depending on which route you take through the game! Recommended to ardent blasting fans.

OVERALL 83%

DARWIN 4081

A conversion of the rather obscure vertically scrolling shoot 'em up. It's fun for a while, but there's nothing new on offer that puts it ahead of any other Megadrive up-the-screen shooter.

OVERALL 74%

DECAPATTACK

A fun-filled platform game which is basically identical to the old import game, Magical Flying Hat Turbo Adventure, except it has different sprites and backdrops. Platform fans will love it - if you're one, check it out.

OVERALL 82%

DESERT STRIKE

The thinly disguised aim of this game is to take control of an attack helicopter and do what the armed forces should have done 12 months ago and dispose of Saddam Hussein and his forces. It's one of the best shoot 'em ups ever written, packed full of original features, and is a game that no Megadrive owner should be without.

OVERALL 94%



DEVIL CRASH

A stunning-looking pinball simulation which is loaded with features. The ball movement is completely realistic, and the general game "feel" makes it the best pinball game yet seen - a must-buy for silverball fans.

OVERALL 90%

DICK TRACY

A sort of Shinobi-style game with machine guns, Dick Tracy is a challenging and addictive action game which should appeal to fans of the movie and games-players alike.

OVERALL 89%

DINOLAND

A jolly, but fairly unchallenging pinball simulation which is let down by jerky and unrealistic ball movement. If you're a pinball fan, look out for Devil Crash, which is miles better than this.

OVERALL 53%

DJ BOY

DJ Boy is a beat 'em up on wheels, and while it's great fun to play, it suffers from one flaw - it's too darn easy. For coin-op fans only.

OVERALL 78%



DONALD DUCK

The action in this graphically superb platform game is fairly slow, but it's nevertheless an enjoyable game which should appeal more to beginners than seasoned veterans.

OVERALL 83%

DOUBLE DRAGON

This conversion of the beat 'em up classic is arcade perfect... except that it's too easy to beat. So unless you're a complete beat 'em up softy, this isn't really worth the money.

OVERALL 59%

DOUBLE DRAGON II

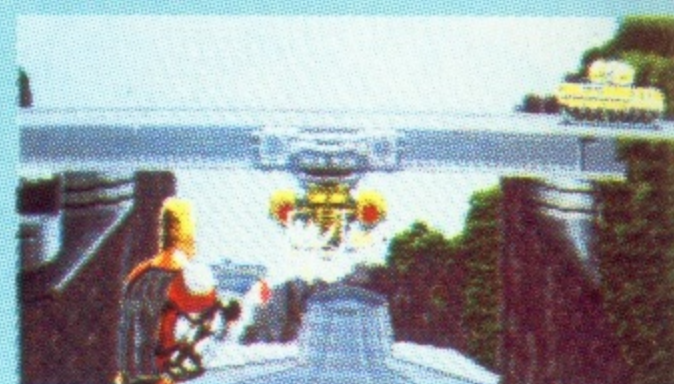
A ghastly version of the arcade beat 'em up which features inept graphics and sound and bland gameplay. Ugh!

OVERALL 30%

DYNAMITE DUKE

One of the few Operation Wolf-style games available for the Megadrive, this provides plenty of blasting fun and frolics, but is ultimately let down by the lack of challenge. Once again, only novices really need apply...

OVERALL 73%



EA HOCKEY

A truly superb sports simulation which perfectly captures the atmosphere of the noble (and violent) sport of ice hockey. The gameplay is simply superb and the tough computer opponents and an excellent two-player option provide plenty of lasting appeal. One of the best sports simulations available - miss it at your peril.

OVERALL 94%

ELEMENTAL MASTER

A technically superb shoot 'em up which combines excellent graphics and superb sound to make it an audio/visual treat. The gameplay is very enjoyable, but the problem is that there are five levels, and they're not that difficult to beat.

OVERALL 78%

EL VIENTO

A tough 'n' challenging platform game which doesn't look particularly hot, but is surprisingly addictive and keeps you playing for ages.

OVERALL 80%



ESWAT

ESWAT is a super-slick platform shoot 'em up that simply oozes quality. The parallax scrolling backdrops and sprites are excellent, and the sound is great. Combine those with challenging and highly addictive gameplay and you've got a game that's a must for your collection.

OVERALL 92%



F-22

This fighter combat simulation is truly superb. Packed with options and features, there are over 100 missions to test even the most elite of pilots - and a mission generator so you can create your own! An absolute must for anyone who's ever wished to fly a fighter bomber!

OVERALL 93%

FAERY TALE ADVENTURE

A dull role-playing game which lacks action and atmosphere. There are plenty of better games of this type, so look elsewhere.

OVERALL 49%

FANTASIA

This sequel to Mickey Mouse was keenly anticipated, but turned out to be a massive disappointment. The graphics are excellent, but sadly naff sound and poorly designed, bland and frustrating gameplay result in a game that has very little appeal. A Mickey Mouse game in the wrong sense of the word.

OVERALL 49%

FASTEST ONE

This split screen one or two-player racing game completely fails to deliver. Crap graphics, sound and playability and utterly tedious action result in the worst Megadrive racing game by far. Steer well clear.

OVERALL 29%

FATAL LABYRINTH

This cross between a scrolling beat 'em up and a role-playing game fails to deliver in both categories. The RPG aspect is dull and limited and the slow, boring action fails to offer any thrills and spills.

OVERALL 51%



FATAL REWIND

Better known as Killing Game Show, this is a very fast and furious platform game where memorising the screen layout is the key to success. Some may find its high difficulty level just too frustrating, but if you're after a challenge, this is where to be.

OVERALL 83%

FIGHTING MASTER

Limited with one-player, but superb in two-player mode, this beat 'em up allows the players to select one of twelve different characters and beat the cack out of each other. It's a really fun game and is highly recommended - but do bear in mind that you do need two players to get the most out of it.

OVERALL 81%

FIRE MUSTANG

This P-47 clone is quite good fun to play at first, but the trouble is that there simply isn't anything new on offer and after a few sessions it all becomes dull and predictable.

OVERALL 59%

FIRE SHARK

Also known as Tora! Tora! Tora!, this is the latest from vertically scrolling shoot 'em up specialists Toaplan (authors of Truxton and Flying Shark). Although it's great fun, suffers from being too easy to complete. Perhaps one for the novices?

OVERALL 59%

FLICKY

This conversion of the ancient coin-op looks crap, sounds crap and plays... brilliantly! It's very simplistic, but for some reason the action is incredibly enjoyable and addictive. Check it out!

OVERALL 88%

FINAL BLOW/JAMES "BUSTER" DOUGLAS CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING

On the positive side, the pair of large boxer sprites are nicely drawn and animated, but the problem is that the boxing moves are limited and there are only four different opponents. It doesn't take long to master the game, and the limited nature of the action doesn't bring you back for more.

OVERALL 69%

FLYING SHARK

Up the screen you go in this vertically scrolling blast, almost, nearly, but not quite a conversion of Taito's successful coin-op. It's an enjoyable blast, featuring decent graphics and sound, but unfortunately suffers from zero originality and low challenge, and once you've played it a couple of times you get those "seen it all before blues".

OVERALL 71%

FORGOTTEN WORLDS

Forgotten Worlds is a good looking one or two-player blast, with plenty of action on offer. Like other Megadrive games, it's easy to finish on the easy level, but offers plenty of challenge on difficult. Check it out if you're into destruction.

OVERALL 82%

GAIRIES

An excellent-looking game, Gairies is by far the toughest horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up available on the Megadrive and is highly recommended to blasting fans who are hankering after a challenge.

OVERALL 84%

GAIN GROUND

A very accurate conversion of an obscure and hopelessly crap arcade game which features the average graphics, rubbish sound and boring gameplay of the original machine.

OVERALL 43%

GALAXY FORCE

A very disappointing conversion of Sega's showpiece coin-op. The 3D effect is poor, the difficulty setting is low and there are only four levels to challenge you. If you want a game of this sort, try Space Harrier II instead.

OVERALL 59%

GAMES: WINTER CHALLENGE

Participate in eight Olympic events (speed skating, downhill, luge, cross country, bobsled, biathlon, giant slalom and ski jump) in this fine winter sports fest. The graphics are a bit patchy, but overall this is a fine game that's highly recommended to sports fans.

OVERALL 85%

GHOSTBUSTERS

Featuring humorous cartoon-style graphics - some of the end-of-level ghosts are truly superb - and some excellent tunes, Ghostbusters is a platform game which will keep you amused for some time. If you ain't afraid of no ghosts, try this one out.

OVERALL 82%

GHOULS 'N' GHOSTS

Ghouls 'n' Ghosts is a stunning conversion on the classic coin-op, combining stunning graphics and sound with very challenging gameplay. It's a truly superb game, and is a must for your Megadrive software library.

OVERALL 93%

GOLDEN AXE

Golden Axe is a perfect replica of the arcade machine which also sports additional features in the form of one-on-one battle options, a mini-mission for

beginners as well as extra levels which didn't appear in the arcade version. All together it's one of the best arcade conversions ever seen. A must!

OVERALL 94%

GOLDEN AXE II

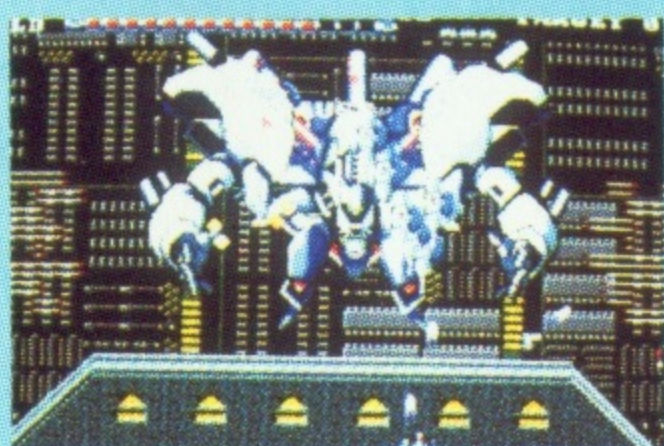
What a con! Golden Axe II is almost identical to the original game. It follows the same formula, has virtually no new features and certainly isn't worth the money. Buy the original if you haven't already got it. If you have, look elsewhere for your beat 'em up thrills.

OVERALL 69%

GRENADA X

First impressions of this overhead-scrolling tank-based shoot 'em up aren't very good. The graphics are pretty basic and the sound isn't all that hot. But persevere with it and you'll find yourself getting drawn into the action. It's certainly not a priority purchase, but if you're looking for an original shoot 'em up and have got all the best ones, give this a go.

OVERALL 80%



GYNOUG

Known in the US as Wings of War, this is the finest horizontally scrolling blaster available on the Megadrive. The gory, ghoulish graphics are outstanding, the sound is excellent and the tough and challenging gameplay is extremely addictive. A must for blasting fans.

OVERALL 92%

HARD DRIVIN'

The arcade game was fun, which is more than can be said for this conversion. Suspect handling, poor gameplay and unrealistic 3D update conspire together to make this a yawnsome experience. Add in the low, low difficulty level and you've got a veritable Robin Reliant of a race game.

OVERALL 51%

HARDBALL

A decent baseball game which doesn't have enough novel or interesting features to make it appeal to anyone other than real fans of the sport.

OVERALL 75%

HEAVY UNIT

Another horizontally scrolling blast, but this one is made more remarkable than most thanks to great graphics and tough, but addictive gameplay. If you're a blastaholic, check it out.

OVERALL 85%

HELLFIRE

Featuring novel four-way selectable fire-power and power-up weapons, this is a slick and very good looking blaster

which oozes playability. It's tough, with six long, long levels packed full of the meanies enemy ships alien money can buy, and some mean end-of-level bad-dies. There are plenty of surprises in store too, especially on the final level. If you're a shoot 'em up fan looking for a challenge, check out Hellfire - it might not look as good as Thunderforce III, but it's simply a much better game.

OVERALL 90%

HERZOG ZWEI

A weird title for a weird game. Herzog Zwei is a sort of strategy shoot 'em up in which one or two players attempt to defeat opposing enemy forces by strategically positioning their own armoured divisions. Rather short on action, but an interesting title for the thinkers amongst us which would be more suitable for the tacticians, rather than arcade players.

OVERALL 76%

INSECTOR X

The game is fun at first - and the slick graphics and decent sound certainly add a little to the excitement - but none of the power-up weapons are particularly exciting, and the action has very little in the way of original features. There are plenty of better shoot 'em ups than this, and punters are advised to check out Hellfire and Thunderforce III before making a purchasing decision.

OVERALL 74%

JAMES POND

A cute and entertaining twelve-level aquatic platform game which provides plenty of fun. There are lots of hidden levels, and ardent platform addiction to definitely enjoy the action.

OVERALL 77%

JEWEL MASTER

A fairly standard platform game which despite a few original features has neither the challenge or addiction to keep you entertained for more than a few sessions.

OVERALL 55%

JOE MONTANA'S FOOTBALL

A pretty good football game, but has neither the depth, the options nor the challenge of John Madden's Football. Go for Madden's - or if you're after something different, Joe Montana II.

OVERALL 73%



JOE MONTANA SPORTSTALK FOOTBALL

This is truly a showpiece game. Featuring the most speech ever heard in a home videogame, Joe Montana Sportstalk Football is a very enjoyable American football game which actually gives you a running commentary while you

play! John Madden's Football '92 is the best American football game by far, but this is original and different enough to still be a very worthy purchase.

OVERALL 83%

JOHN MADDEN'S FOOTBALL

Using stunning state-of-the-art 3D graphics and unbelievable sound, this is one of the finest sports games ever seen. Easy-to-operate drop-down menus are used to dictate play, and the control pad is used intelligently to allow an incredible amount of different moves, including running, passing, diving, spinning and head-butting. With its two-player option, and multiple modes of play, this is a game which will keep you entertained for months.

OVERALL 94%



JOHN MADDEN'S FOOTBALL '92

Featuring new teams, higher difficulty level and plenty of gameplay tweaks, this sequel does the impossible and improves upon the original to become the best Megadrive game yet seen! An essential purchase.

OVERALL 96%

KID CHAMELEON

A nice-looking platform game which combines elements of Mario and Sonic and some of its own neat touches to great effect. The only problem is that it's too easy, and platform fans should be able to complete it quickly. Novices should revel in its action, though.

OVERALL 78%

KING'S BOUNTY

A fairly complex, non-action oriented role-playing game which should appeal to fans of the genre.

OVERALL 71%

KLAX

Beware! The Japanese import version of this isn't particularly good due to a vague and imprecise control method. American and official versions have that problem cured and are much better. Fans of the original coin-op and puzzle game players in general are recommended to try it out.

OVERALL 85%

LAKERS Vs CELTICS

An excellent all round sports simulation which combines superb playability with realistic gameplay to provide an addictive challenge that even non-basketball fans will enjoy.

OVERALL 89%

LAST BATTLE

Amongst one of the first Megadrive games to appear, this is a failure on two counts: it neither shows off any of the Megadrive's capabilities nor is an en-

joyable game in its own right. Do yourself a favour, and plug this into anything but your Sega.

OVERALL 32%

M1 ABRAM'S TANK

A thoroughly enjoyable simulation which features eight missions to test the skills of a budding tank commander.

OVERALL 81%



MARBLE MADNESS

A perfect conversion of the classic arcade game in which one or two players guide a marble over six wacky landscapes. It doesn't take long to complete, but it's such fun you still keep going back to beat your record scores.

OVERALL 88%

MARIO LEMIEUX HOCKEY

A decent ice hockey game that's completely overshadowed by the far, far superior EA Ice Hockey. Try that one first and this one second.

OVERALL 76%

MARVEL LAND

A huge, sprawling platform game with loads of levels. Although original features are few and far between, it's a playable, fun game which should appeal to fans of the genre.

OVERALL 81%

MEGATRAX

A very disappointing version of the enjoyable quad-bike racing coin-op. Although it has simultaneous two-player action, the naff graphics and bland gameplay fail to spark any excitement at all. Avoid it.

OVERALL 33%



MERCS

An excellent up-the-screen action shooter in which you guide a lone commando against hordes of enemy soldiers. There are two games in this cartridge, one a stunning conversion of the coin-op and the other a completely new Mercs game with seven never-before-seen levels. A must for blasting fans.

OVERALL 88%

MICKY MOUSE IN THE CASTLE OF ILLUSION

One of the best Megadrive platform games around, combining superlative

graphics and excellent gameplay to provide an addictive and thoroughly enjoyable challenge.

OVERALL 93%

MIDNIGHT RESISTANCE

A very faithful coin-op conversion which packs all the looks, sounds and levels of the original machine. On the lowest setting the challenge is lacking, but stick it on hard and you should have a great time!

OVERALL 85%

MIGHT AND MAGIC

An extremely good menu/text-driven RPG which should keep purists scratching their craniums for months.

OVERALL 81%

MIKE DITKA'S POWER FOOTBALL

A cross between Joe Montana Football and John Madden's Football, but not as good as either.

OVERALL 72%

MOONWALKER

With its excellent graphics, thumping soundtrack (including such hits as Beat It, Billie Jean and Bad) and sampled speech (with all your favourite Jackson aahs and oohs), this is a very addictive platform game which will have you tapping your feet while you play. Forget the fact that this has the cred-damaging Michael Jackson face on the cover, and just enjoy the action.

OVERALL 85%

MUSHA

Uneven graphics and the easy difficulty level make this a rather dull up-the-screen shoot 'em up which we can only recommend to novices.

OVERALL 71%

MYSTIC DEFENDER

Originally imported as Kujaku II, this Ghouls 'n' Ghosts clone lacks the oomph to keep you coming back for more.

OVERALL 63%

NEW ZEALAND STORY

New Zealand Story might look as cute as a litter of kittens, but it's tough and challenging, with different screens from the arcade version to make life difficult even for coin-op experts. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 89%

OUTRUN

This conversion of the classic coin-op simply doesn't do it justice. The graphics and sound are okay, but it's the gameplay where it falls flat - it's so easy even a complete dumbo can complete it within a couple of goes.

OVERALL 69%

PACMANIA

Pac's back in this forced perspective dot-goblin extravaganza! A very simple game concept which still provides plenty of enjoyment even after a decade!

OVERALL 86%

PAPERBOY

Looks nigh on perfect, but this conversion is sadly flawed in the gameplay department - the bike doesn't handle well and the collision detection is all over the shop. With more rigorous playtesting this could have been a winner. As it stands its fun is marred by its foibles.

OVERALL 72%

PGA TOUR GOLF

Simply the best golf game available on any system. Superb gameplay, a tough challenge, multi-player options, battery-backed RAM and loads of courses make this a sports simulation not to miss.

OVERALL 93%

PHANTASY STAR II

There's certainly a big challenge in store in this massive menu-driven adventure, but to be honest, Phantasy Star II is more suited to pure RPG fans who like to use their brains rather than their joysticks. Arcade fans will soon become bored due to the lack of immediate action.

OVERALL 78%

PHANTASY STAR III

Another enormous role-playing game, but this one has far more depth and variety than its predecessor. It's by far the best RPG on the Megadrive, but the real bummer is that it costs a massive £60.00! Eeek!

OVERALL 89%

PHELIOS

Phelios is certainly not the greatest vertically scrolling Megadrive blaster around, but it has enough original features to keep you entertained for a while at least - even though it has crap graphics.

OVERALL 77%



PITFIGHTER

Take control of a kick boxer, wrestler or kung-fu expert and enter the pit to fight all manner of 'orrible street hoodlums. The graphics are a bit poor in places, but this conversion successfully captures the spirit of the coin-op and should appeal greatly to beat 'em up fans.

OVERALL 81%

POPULOUS

Ever wanted to play God? Of course you have. And now here's your opportunity, courtesy of this stunning Electronic Arts. With super graphics and 500 different levels, Populous is both highly original and amazingly addictive. Once you start playing, it's very difficult to stop. With a constant challenge on offer, Populous is a game which you will return to time and time again.

OVERALL 91%

RAIDEN TRAD

A vertically scrolling blaster which doesn't have much going for it in the way of originality, but provides a stiff and enjoyable challenge for those who haven't tired of the genre.

OVERALL 79%

RAINBOW ISLANDS

Save the vertical scrolling platform levels of the Rainbow Islands in this conversion of the Taito coin-op. Virtually arcade perfect (both arcade versions, normal and super have been included) with only flickery sprites letting the side down, Rainbow Islands is a rewarding, playable platform game.

OVERALL 86%

RAMBO III

In typical Rambo style, the object of this multidirectionally scrolling shoot 'em up is to infiltrate five different enemy zones and destroy everything and anything silly enough to step in your way. With great graphics and thumping good sound, Rambo certainly backs a punch.

OVERALL 87%

**REVENGE OF SHINOBI**

This is a slick, superb looking, great sounding and incredibly playable platform game in which you guide hero Shinobi on a solo infiltration deep into enemy territory. The gameplay is beautifully balanced so you seem to get just a little bit further with every game. The game itself is huge, spread over 20 different and very long sub-levels, making this challenging even to the most skillful of players. If you're a platform game fan, this is an essential purchase.

OVERALL 94%

RINGS OF POWER

EA have tried to inject new life into the RPG formula, but have sadly ended up with a vacuous zombie of a game. It looks alright on the surface, but get deeper and there's nothing there to provide intellectual stimulation.

OVERALL 41%

**ROAD RASH**

Take your high-powered bike into the Road Rash tournaments, a series of races where the objective is to travel the Super Hang-On-style roadways in-

dulging in violent acts with other "Rashers". Lots of races, lots of bikes to ride, and plenty of thrills 'n' spills make Road Rash the best racer on the Megadrive!

OVERALL 92%

ROBOCOD

One of the finest platform games on the Megadrive, featuring absolutely superlative graphics, splendid sound and wonderful gameplay as you guide the piscine hero against the robotic hordes of Doctor Maybe. Stick it on the top of your shopping list.

OVERALL 95%

ROLLING THUNDER II

An enjoyable platform-based shoot 'em up romp on the arcade game of the same name. With two-player action, a tough challenge and a neat password system, this is well worth checking out.

OVERALL 85%

SAINT SWORD

Saint Sword offers platform-based slash 'em up frivolity, as our hero penetrates enemy territory in search of the evil wizard, Gorgan. This Rastan-like game could have done with better graphics and sound, but as it stands, Saint Sword is a fairly playable effort.

OVERALL 72%

SHADOW DANCER

Joe Mushashi's back for some more ninjitsu-related platform action in this follow-up to Revenge of Shinobi. Graphics, sound and playability are all inferior to Revenge, so smart cookies should check that one out for the ultimate ninja game.

OVERALL 59%

SHADOW OF THE BEAST

A slow but enjoyable platform game whose onus is more on exploration and puzzle-solving than any sort of combat. The rather plodding action means that this isn't for everyone, so look before you leap into your wallet.

OVERALL 82%

SHINING IN THE DARKNESS

A role-playing game with excellent graphics and a brilliant window system, Shining in the Darkness is recommended to RPG buffs. Watch out though for irritating combat, reliant on luck rather than the player's skill.

OVERALL 72%

SOKO BAN

This strange puzzle game involves the player moving boxes around store rooms. It doesn't sound exciting, and indeed it isn't, but the action is absorbing nonetheless, and puzzle fans should relish the considerable challenge.

OVERALL 78%

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

Sega's hyped-beyond-belief character stars in a game inspired by Nintendo's Mario platform game series. It's very addictive with brilliant graphics and speed. However, the gameplay is frustrating at times and experienced gamers should have this one licked within days.

OVERALL 90%

SPACE HARRIER II

Take off and battle aliens who've invaded 12 zones of the beautiful Fantasy Zone in this 3D shoot 'em up. The 3D is very fast and smooth, and indeed the whole game looks amazing. However, the gameplay gets pretty dull after a while due to the lack of variety. For fans of the coin-op only.

OVERALL 76%

SPEEDBALL II

A rough 'n' tough futuresport simulation in which you guide a team of psychos into battle against other similar groups of marauding nutters. With loads of options, a league system, excellent two-player option and decent one-player challenge, this is one that sports fans should look up as soon as possible.

OVERALL 88%

**SPIDER-MAN**

Marvel's web-slinging hero hits the Megadrive in style, with excellent comic-like backdrops and sprites with great gameplay. With plenty to see and do, Spider-Man should appeal to anyone after an excellent, challenging platform game.

OVERALL 91%

STAR CONTROL

Two space empires battle it out for supremacy in this awesome rendition of the arcade classic, Space Wars (albeit with extra strategy bits thrown in). A bit dull in one-player mode, but the highly entertaining two-player version more than makes up for it.

OVERALL 90%

STAR FLIGHT

Like Buck Rogers, this looks like a boring load of old RPG toss, but it's not. It's a massive, highly involved and thoroughly enjoyable space flight/exploration/RPG-style game. It might not sound or look like fun, but give it a go - you'll be surprised as to just how brilliant the game is (and it keeps you playing for weeks and weeks, rather than a few days like most arcade games do).

OVERALL 94%

STORMLORD

Ghouls 'n' Ghosts-style platform action in this Amiga conversion. Unfortunately, the playability's cursed with unforgiving collision detection and a very high frustration level. Put bluntly, even the Spectrum version beats this hands down in the playability department.

OVERALL 57%

STREET SMART

A dreadful beat 'em up debacle, Street Smart starts off well with decent sprites

and backdrops. However start the game proper and you'll discover that the gameplay is a complete joke with repetitive attack moves and no challenge whatsoever. Get Streets of Rage instead.

OVERALL 55%

**STREETS OF RAGE**

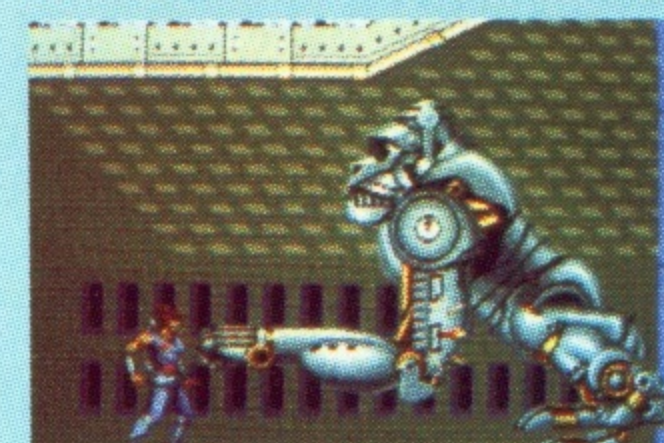
Yes! The Megadrive needed a fabulous beat 'em up, and Streets of Rage more than delivers. With excellent sprites, backdrops and brilliant music, Streets of Rage is initially very appealing. Add in great gameplay and simultaneous two-player action and you've got an essential buy.

OVERALL 92%

**STRIDER**

The graphics and sound are nigh on arcade-perfect, and it also packs a considerable challenge. Packing a considerable challenge, Strider is a truly superlative coin-op conversion which will appeal to any arcade fan - and its multiple difficulty levels means that it won't become boring very quickly.

OVERALL 91%

**SUPER HANG-ON**

Converted from the Sega coin-op, this is an excellent copy and has all the features of the original machine plus an extra challenge game thrown in for good measure! The graphics and sound are both excellent, and with playability to match, this is a race game that no Megadrive owner should be without.

OVERALL 89%

SUPER HYDLIDE

This is a potentially excellent role-playing game, let down by the fact that the graphics are rubbish and the game is near impossible to get into. Sword of

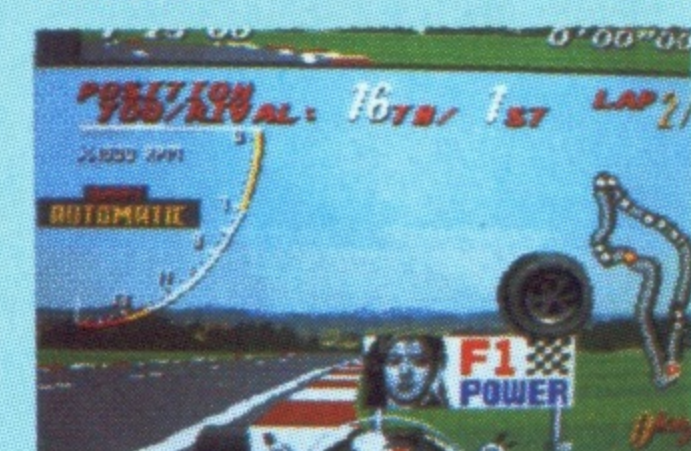
Vermillion, Buck Rogers or Phantasy Star III are far more worthy buys.

OVERALL 40%

SUPER LEAGUE BASEBALL

The graphics and sound are both very good, with nicely animated batters and pitchers, and plenty of atmospheric spot effects. The game plays a challenging version of baseball, with tough computer opponents and a two-player option for head-to-head laughs and laffs.

OVERALL 80%

**SUPER MONACO GP**

This incredible race game is not only a superb conversion of the brilliant coin-op but also features a full extra game in which you race top drivers around eighteen different Grand Prix circuits. It's a thrilling race game, with fast and effective 3D and great gameplay. It's incredibly addictive and has loads of lasting appeal, with a password system to let you have an ongoing Grand Prix campaign. If you're a speed nut, make sure you get this.

OVERALL 94%

SUPER REAL BASKETBALL

The computer isn't difficult to beat once you've got used to the comprehensive control method, but the inclusion of the thoroughly enjoyable two-player option means that as long as a second player is around, you can go back to it time and time again. With excellent graphics - the animation on the players is particularly good - and plenty of different game-play options, this is bound to go down well with basketball fans everywhere.

OVERALL 81%

SUPER THUNDERBLADE

This was one of the first ever Megadrive games, and three years ago it looked pretty good. However, compared with other offerings, the jerky 3D and sluggish control methods makes this game look rough around the edges.

OVERALL 69%

SUPER VOLLEYBALL

Although it looks good, the rather fiddly and irritating control method means that only the most ardent of volleyball fans will be willing to persevere with this.

OVERALL 61%

SWORD OF SODAN

Although Sword of Sodan's big sprites look impressive, the poor animation and pedestrian playability results in a game that will only appeal to people who like their action sl-o-o-w.

OVERALL 55%

SWORD OF VERMILLION

Put simply, this is probably the best RPG on the Megadrive. A gripping plot combined with user-friendly controls and great presentation make for an RPG that even a die-hard laser brain should thoroughly enjoy.

OVERALL 87%

TECHNOCOP

There are two sections to each mission in this rancid Razorsoft game. The first part of the game involves chasing criminals along a poorly-defined 3D road, while the second part is a sad scrolling effort when Technocop blasts his suspect out of all the known dimensions. Boring in the extreme, Technocop should never be part of anyone's cartridge collection.

OVERALL 49%

TECMO WORLD CUP

A disappointing, uninspiring and simplistic game of football based on Tecmo's moderately successful coin-op. The main problem is that the game is very easy to beat - even on the top difficulty setting! The poor graphics and sounds are two more own goals, and the final result is a game that you won't be over the moon with.

OVERALL 47%

THUNDERFORCE II

Overshadowed by its successor, but nevertheless a robust shoot 'em up with plenty of thrills 'n' spills, this blaster has action set over nine different horizontally and overhead scrolling levels packed to the gills with enemy ships and huge (and we mean huge) end-of-level guardians. Recommended to blasting fans.

OVERALL 81%

**THUNDERFORCE III**

The Thunderforce fighter is back in a six-level graphical tour-de-force. The graphics are truly marvellous, with parallax-scrolling backdrops and some great sprites. The sound isn't bad, either. Put those together with the great gameplay and you've got a superb shoot 'em up which is highly recommended.

OVERALL 89%

TOEJAM AND EARL

A completely bizarre one or simultaneous two-player arcade adventure that's absolutely jam-packed with humorous touches - both visual and aural. The game is very laid back, and the emphasis is on exploration rather than rushing about. Thoroughly enjoyable, thoroughly weird and thoroughly worth checking out.

OVERALL 87%

TOKI

The arcade game was brill, but the programmers have managed to ruin this conversion by completely changing the maps and screen layout around. The end result is a plodding, very easy, occasionally frustrating platform game which only demented baboons will enjoy.

OVERALL 47%

TONGUE OF THE FATMAN

The graphics and animation of this one-on-one beat 'em up are utterly superb. However, these are let down by the gameplay, which is far too easy. Check it out by all means - if just to see the graphics - but play before you buy.

OVERALL 71%

TRUXTON

Although original features are distinctly lacking in this vertically scrolling arcade conversion (which incidentally is also known as Tatsujin), it's a good, solid blast which offers plenty of action, speed and excitement.

OVERALL 82%

TURBO OUTFRAN

Apart from being a titchy bit harder than Outrun (not difficult since that game was as difficult as poking a hole through wet bog roll), every other aspect of this sad shambling mockery of the classic arcade game is miles worse. A grand disappointment of the highest order.

OVERALL 42%

TURRICAN

A fairly enjoyable platform/shooting game which has one flaw - it starts out fairly tricky, but gets easier the further you go!

OVERALL 73%

TWIN HAWK

Yet more Megadrive vertically scrolling malarkey, with the usual assortment of power-ups and end-of-level bosses. Twin Hawk is very average indeed, adding nothing to an already overtired genre.

OVERALL 60%



TWO CRUDE DUDES

An enjoyable horizontally scrolling one- or two-player beat 'em up marred slightly by rough graphics and repetitive play. Fans of the coin-op will love it, otherwise try before you buy.

OVERALL 79%

ULTIMATE TIGER

Yet another vertically scrolling shooting game, Ultimate Tiger is a pretty decent conversion of the ageing coin-op. Although completely unoriginal, Ultimate Tiger is still quite playable and well

worth a look.

OVERALL 81%

VAPOR TRAIL

Another vertically scrolling shoot 'em up? You bet! Vapor Trail is another average effort with decent graphics, exceptional sound but rather lacking in the challenge department. One for die-hard blasting fans to have a look at.

OVERALL 70%

VERYTEX

Would you believe it? ANOTHER vertically scrolling blaster! For Verytex, read Very Average. Unexceptional graphics coupled with dull gameplay make Verytex very boring very quickly.

OVERALL 73%

WARDNER

Wardner was a minor coin-op hit, and this Megadrive conversion is pretty creditable. It's standard platform fare - dodge the traps and blast the meanies and massive bosses. Wardner is pretty playable, but infinite continues make it pretty simple to complete.

OVERALL 75%

WONDERBOY III

Tom-Tom's back for some more platform-based scrolling shoot 'em up action. Very average graphics and sound stand hand-in-hand with uneventful, completely unchallenging gameplay. A big disappointment for Wonderboy fans.

OVERALL 47%

WONDERBOY IN MONSTERLAND



Not outstanding in the graphics or sound department, this Wonderboy game more than makes up for its deficiencies with marvellous gameplay, a massive map and plenty of enjoyable brain-teasing puzzles. A must for Wonderboy fans.

OVERALL 88%

WHIP RUSH

Originality certainly wasn't high on the priority sheet when this very average scrolling shoot 'em up was thought up. To be honest, it's one of the crappiest blasters available - try something like Truxton or Thunderforce III rather than wasting your cash on this.

OVERALL 48%

WORLD CUP SOCCER

Soccer games are few and far between on the Megadrive, and unfortunately, this is not particularly brilliant and it's very easy to beat the crap computer opponents. Worth checking out if you're really desperate for a football game, but if you're a good gamesplayer don't forget about that low, low difficulty level.

OVERALL 64%

WRESTLE WARS

A topper wrestling game which features plenty of moves, fun gameplay and throws aplenty - the two-player game is particularly fun. If you like grappling sweaty men, make this a priority purchase.

OVERALL 88%



XENON II

A massive success on the Amiga, but not quite so hot by Megadrive standards, this graphically impressive vertically scrolling shoot 'em up has enough neat touches to appeal to hardcore shoot 'em up addicts.

OVERALL 82%

XDR

This horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up looks more like a Master System game than a Megadrive game! It takes but a few goes to become bored, and that's not what Megadrive games are about. We want excitement! Thrills! Spills! And some decent gameplay. Give it a miss and buy something far more exciting.

OVERALL 47%

ZANY GOLF

This is an offbeat "sports" simulation based around that most famous of British seaside resort pastimes, crazy golf. Featuring courses as bizarre as they're tricky, this is a surprisingly addictive little number that just keeps you coming back for more.

OVERALL 80%



ZERO WING

A tough and thoroughly enjoyable scrolling shoot 'em up. There are loads of this type of game on the Megadrive, but alongside Gynoug and Hellfire, this is one of the best.

OVERALL 91%

ZOOM

Reminiscent in many respects of that decade-old arcade classic, Amidar, this painting game requires you to make your way around a grid and fill in each square by painting around the edges. It's quite good fun, and is addictive to boot. However, there isn't much variety, and after a couple of sessions it all starts to get a little bit boring.

OVERALL 45%

ACE OF ACES

Take on the Red Baron in this WW1-based flight sim/shoot 'em up. Actually, you'd better not, because shambling graphics, poor sound and virtually zero playability make Ace of Aces a full-blown loser. Oh dear.

OVERALL 29%

ACTION FIGHTER

Take to the roads and skies in your transforming motorcycle/plane in Action Fighter - a conversion of Sega's ancient vertically scrolling shoot 'em up. Whilst looking a bit dated, Action Fighter's simple gameplay is still quite addictive, and the colourful graphics and bouncy tunes accompany it well.

OVERALL 84%

AERIAL ASSAULT

Aerial Assault is a horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up in the mould of UN Squadron stacked with power-ups and flaming death. The graphics are quite simple and the sound is unappealing, but Aerial Assault is quite good fun. Be warned however, it won't take long to complete.

OVERALL 82%

AFTERBURNER

Arcade Afterburner was enjoyable because of its moving cabinet and fab graphics and sound. Sadly, the Master System has none of these, and the basic game itself is really quite dull (and very easy). Only for real coin-op fans.

OVERALL 51%

ALEX KIDD IN MIRACLE WORLD

This is the first in the Alex Kidd series, and it's still one of the best. The blend of platforming and puzzles works well and although the graphics aren't so hot they don't detract from this entertaining platform romp.

OVERALL 86%

ALEX KIDD IN HIGH-TECH WORLD

A continuation of the Alex Kidd saga, this is essentially much of the same - more wacky platform action with loads of bonuses and other bits and bobs. Again, the graphics and sound are really good, but there's nothing that makes this any better than the original.

OVERALL 76%



ALEX KIDD IN SHINOBI WORLD

The latest and greatest Kidd game. Al now has the powers of Ninja magic and must traverse a parody of the Shinobi landscape to rescue his girl. This is a humorous and very playable cart with smart graphics and okay sound. Recommended.

OVERALL 90%

ALEX KIDD AND THE LOST STARS

Once again Alex must don his puzzle solving/platforming trousers to save the day. More cute sprites, general colourfulness, jolly tunes and fun gameplay. Although it's very similar to the other games in the series, Kidd fans should take a look.

OVERALL 80%



ALIEN STORM

You are Gordon the hot-dog man (or his robot assistant) and you must rid the world of an alien menace in this Golden Axe-style game with shoot 'em up overtones. Sadly, the graphics are the best thing about the game are the graphics - and they're crap. Avoid this one.

OVERALL 38%



ALIEN SYNDROME

This gory blaster was a big arcade hit, and on the Sega it's not bad either. The graphics are of a high quality and it's fairly playable, but the poor scrolling makes it difficult to see what's coming at you. This tends to make things a bit hard, so only experienced gamers should go for this one.

OVERALL 73%

AMERICAN BASEBALL

Cor blimey, a baseball game. This one's got good graphics, plenty of options and is pretty fast paced. If it's baseball you're after, this is the cart for you.

OVERALL 74%

AMERICAN PRO FOOTBALL

Although this has been out for a while now, it's still the best American Football game on the Sega. The graphics are great, the sound is good, there's lots to do, it's pretty challenging and very playable indeed. Certainly one for the collection.

OVERALL 95%

ASSAULT CITY

It's Op Wolf time with Assault City. Shoot those robots to make the world a better place. Assault City's graphics are quite jolly, and the game is fun, although somewhat easy. One for non-light phaser owning Operation Wolf

fans. OVERALL

70%



ASTERIX

Take the mantle of both Asterix and Obelix in this new platform adventure. The graphics are great, the sound's not so bad and it's pretty playable. Unfortunately, there are a few instant-death frustrations and pointless infinite continues. Still, overall it's a pretty good game.

OVERALL 80%

ASTRO WARRIOR/PITPOT

A very old cart, this, but it's still not bad. Astro Warrior is a decent enough up-screen blaster and Pit Pot is a fun original game which rounds the cart out quite nicely. If you can find this for a bargain price it's worth a look.

OVERALL 79%

AZTEC ADVENTURE

Considering the plethora of other RPGs on the Sega, this is a very poor offering indeed and the only recommendation we can offer is take a look at all the others and avoid this like the plague!

OVERALL 38%



BACK TO THE FUTURE II

As Marty McFly you must beat five levels of platforming, jet-skating and puzzling. That is, if you don't fall asleep first. Yes, this is a proper snooze - and it's frustrating to boot. Add the poor presentation to this and forsooth - 'tis but a turkey.

OVERALL 37%



BACK TO THE FUTURE III

Marty is back! Featuring great graphics and sound, this is a fun game which is ultimately let down by the fact that it only has three levels and doesn't take long to finish.

OVERALL 68%

BANK PANIC

This ancient arcade conversion tests your reflexes and hand-to-eye co-ordination. The lasting appeal is limited, as the gameplay is quite simple, but this is a cheap cartridge and well worth having a look at.

OVERALL 78%

BASKETBALL NIGHTMARE

Featuring very impressive, beautifully animated in-game screens, this basketball game looks great! But when it comes to playing the game, it's all rather simplistic and dull and the end result is a mediocre basketball game with some very fancy graphics.

OVERALL 56%



BATTLE OUT RUN

Take to the highways in this Chase HQ-style car-crashing game and bump the baddies off the road before they escape! Although Battle Out Run isn't as challenging as Fire and Forget II, there's enough in there to warrant purchase - give it a go if you're into fast action.

OVERALL 80%

BLACK BELT

Take control of a kung-fu expert and battle it out across a horizontally scrolling landscape beating seven kinds of shinola out of anyone stupid enough to cross your path. It's definitely one of the better Sega beat 'em ups around, and is highly recommended.

OVERALL 81%

BLADE EAGLE 3D

One of those rare 3D glasses games, and this one isn't exactly brilliant. It's a fairly simple shoot 'em up which requires you to guide the Blade Eagle against an enemy force. If you're desperate for a 3D game, try this out - but not before taking a look at Space Harrier 3D or 3D Out Run.

OVERALL 51%

BOMBER RAID

Bomber Raid is a vertically scrolling shoot 'em up in which you fly a fighter craft deep into enemy territory with the intent of causing as much damage as possible. It's pretty good fun, but the game isn't difficult to beat, so although you tend to play it a lot at first, it doesn't take long before you finish it and become bored.

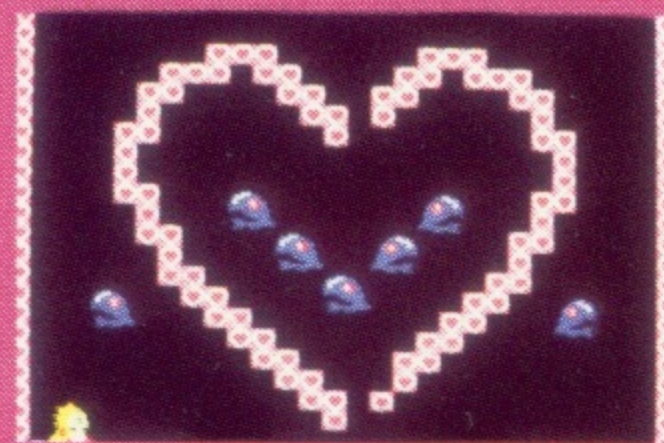
OVERALL 71%

BUBBLE BOBBLE

Acknowledged as one of the best coin-ops ever, Bubble Bobble has at last made it to the Master System. And hooray for us because it's great. All the levels are here and it's rock hard - you

won't complete this one overnight that's for sure. There is some slow-down and sprite flicker however, so be warned.

OVERALL 85%



CALIFORNIA GAMES

This wacky sports sim has six events: half-pipe, foot bag, surfing, roller skating, BMX riding and frisbee-throwing. The graphics on all are pretty impressive, the animation smooth - but it's the competitive element that makes this a winner. Whenever you play it, it's totally compulsive. A must for your Sega.

OVERALL 93%

CAPTAIN SILVER

This dire hack 'n' slash game was originally a coin-op - so it'll come as no surprise that it completely bombed. The graphics are crap, the sound is woeful and the gameplay is poor.

OVERALL 47%

CASINO GAMES

Casino is a gambling game which offers three basic things to choose from: cards, slot machine and pinball. The graphics and sound are nice enough, if only functional, but the game lacks variety. There's no roulette or dice to help spice things up and you'll soon find yourself wanting more for your money.

OVERALL 46%



CHASE HQ

This race 'n' chase 'n' crash 'n' burn game is as exciting as it was in the arcades, and even if you've never played the coin-op, the high-speed thrills of this conversion make it well worth a look.

OVERALL 86%

CHOPLIFTER

With excellent graphics and challenging gameplay, Choplifter is one of the best horizontally scrolling shoot 'em ups around. Take it for a flight.

OVERALL 89%

CLOUD MASTER

Featuring simple, colourful and very weird graphics (like giant chickens and bowls of noodles), this shoot 'em up is a very straightforward and fairly enjoyable blast. Not great, but not bad either.

OVERALL 73%



COLUMNS

The colour-matching arcade puzzle action of Columns might not sound exciting, but it's one of the most addictive games available on the Sega. Play it and see for yourself!

OVERALL 90%

CYBORG HUNTER

The mission of this arcade adventure involves penetrating a well defended complex, destroying all the robots therein, and finally confronting the man behind it. It's all quite jolly and action-packed, but originality and good graphics are very thin on the ground.

OVERALL 71%

DEAD ANGLE

This Operation Wolf-style coin-op conversion takes you back to the gangster years of the 1930's and casts you as a copper on a mission to wipe out an evil gang. The graphics are great, with plenty of neat touches, and the gameplay is very addictive. Easily one of the best shooting games on the Sega, this is well worth taking a look at.

OVERALL 83%



DONALD DUCK AND THE LUCKY DIME CAPER

Another Disney star gets his own Sega game, and once more it's a platform game. Luckily, Donald follows the Disney trend all the way and his game is excellent. It's also hard enough to keep you going for a-a-ages, so prepare to spend thy dosh on this fab cart.

OVERALL 92%

DOUBLE DRAGON

A fairly good version of the classic beat 'em up which is let down by its flickery graphics and rather low difficulty level. Beat 'em up beginners should enjoy the action, but experts will complete it quickly.

OVERALL 70%

DYNAMITE DUKE

A slight twist on the Op Wolf format here sees you as Duke punching, stabbing and shooting your way across the globe facing opposition from evil all the way. Nice graphics, nice sound, shame about the game. It's fun at first, but it's quite repetitive and too easy. For coin-

op fans only.

OVERALL 79%

DYNAMITE DUX

The graphics on this wild 'n' wacky duck-based beat 'em up are truly superb, with bazooka-carrying foxes, marauding moose heads and gangs of field mice all entering the fray. The gameplay is fun, but it's all a little too easy, so expert gamers won't get full value for money from it.

OVERALL 79%

ENDURO RACER

This moto-cross racing game is one of the easiest Sega cartridges to complete. Ten levels of diagonally scrolling track lie between you and the finish line, and even a novice should be able to burn all the way through to the end in a single sitting. Zzzzz.

OVERALL 32%



ESWAT

After the rather nifty arcade game, this is a disappointment. Wimpy weapons, feeble graphics and five levels of not-very-difficult action means completing this takes very little time and effort.

OVERALL 59%

F16 FIGHTER

This looks pretty impressive, but unfortunately suffers from very bland gameplay. Just fly the eponymous F16 Fighter against the swarms of enemy aircraft and blow them up to keep in the game. The graphics and sound are average, and the gameplay soon becomes dull. Avoid it.

OVERALL 48%



FANTASY ZONE

This wacky horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up has the wildest, most colourful graphics ever seen. The gameplay is very addictive indeed, and there's plenty to challenge a hardened shoot 'em up fan.

OVERALL 87%

FANTASY ZONE II

A superb shoot 'em up, but suffers from being too similar to the original. If you haven't already got Fantasy Zone, buy this one instead.

OVERALL 88%

FANTASY ZONE III

Not a scrolling shoot 'em up this time, instead the third in the Fantasy Zone series takes the player to a series of mazes where he must negotiate a variety of hazards and baddies to win the day. The game is a load of fun and, although the graphics are simplistic, there's plenty there to keep anyone happy for days on end.

OVERALL 81%



FIRE AND FORGET II

Fire and Forget II's zoom-up-the-road action is very fast and pretty tough, almost to the point of being off-putting. However, once you get used to the speed of things, you start getting into the action and rise to the considerable challenge. A must for addicts of highway violence!

OVERALL 86%

FORGOTTEN WORLDS

Become a hard floating mercenary with a flying gun in Forgotten Worlds and shoot lots of things. Yes, it's a horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up. Sadly, it's spoilt by a fiddly control method and a lack of challenge. There are much better shooters than this on the Sega.

OVERALL 62%

GAIN GROUND

This conversion of the obscure Sega coin-op shows why it was never a hit. It's a kind of flick-screen Gauntlet clone, without the playability. There's no original ideas and it all gets very repetitive. Don't buy it unless you like average games.

OVERALL 62%



GALAXY FORCE II

Featuring four levels of 3D shooting action, truly marvellous graphics and gameplay that's challenging enough to keep you occupied for weeks, this is the best game of its type on the Sega.

OVERALL 85%

GANGSTER TOWN

This old, rather dull game features reasonable graphics and sound, but doesn't really have that addictive spark to keep you coming back for more. Try something else instead.

OVERALL 48%



GAUNTLET

The coin-op was a sensation when appeared in 1986, and this version has all the features of the original machine. With 100 different levels to challenge you, Gauntlet won't lose its appeal in a hurry. If you've got a Sega, do yourself a favour and plug this into it.

OVERALL 90%

GHOSTBUSTERS

On the whole Ghostbusters is a great game. The graphics are nicely detailed, smooth and colourful - the music, though, is utterly dire, and sounds like a load of deaf people are trying to play the Ghostbusters theme tune on some crummy old synthesizers. Still, turn down the volume and get bustin'...

OVERALL 86%

GHOST HOUSE

Ghost House's graphics are of the cute style - big heads, big eyes and little bodies - the sound is very jolly, and at its cheap price the addictive gameplay provides fun at a price every Sega owner can afford.

OVERALL 79%

GLOBAL DEFENCE

Known better to arcade goers as SDI, this missile-blasting game has excellent graphics. The gameplay is addictive too - in fact the only thing wrong with it is the tricky control method, which makes it frustratingly difficult to get into. If you're prepared to stick with it, there's plenty here. Try before you buy.

OVERALL 80%



G-LOC

This is what Afterburner should have been. Loads of missions, tons of options, plenty of power-ups and enough variety to stop you getting bored. Shooting fans should be especially interested in this.

OVERALL 82%

GOLDEN AXE

Golden Axe is a superb conversion of the coin-op, with five tough levels of action. The graphics and sound are both top-notch and the game is highly recommended to beat 'em up fans.

OVERALL 92%

GOLFAMANIA

Golfmania lets you play a round of 18 hazard-packed holes in the comfort of your very own front room. There's plenty of lasting appeal in this one, and the challenging gameplay keeps you coming back time and time again. A must for Sega-owning golf fans - get your Dad to buy it, he'll love it!

OVERALL 83%

GOLVELLIUS

RPG fans will be interested in this one. The graphics are top-notch and the sound is atmospheric and helps draw you into the action. Arcade fans won't like this much, but if you're after a sedate game which requires plenty of the old grey matter, check this one out.

OVERALL 81%

GREAT BASEBALL

Great Baseball isn't as good as American Baseball, so we recommend baseball fans to try that first before buying.

OVERALL 70%

GREAT BASKETBALL

If you like basketball, rush out and grab this now. Otherwise try something with a bit more oomph - like California Games or American Pro Football.

OVERALL 68%

GREAT FOOTBALL

Not soccer, as you might imagine - this is a simulation of American Football. If you're after a good American Football simulation, try out American Pro Football - it's miles better than this and offers twice as much challenge.

OVERALL 67%

GREAT GOLF

If you fancy a round of 18-hole golf, this might be what you're looking for. Or is it? If you look around the shelves of your software shop, you'll find Golfmania and Leaderboard, both which have better graphics, sound and playability.

OVERALL 71%

GREAT VOLLEYBALL

This simulation is pretty accurate, and it has good graphics and an easy-to-use control method, but really it's the sport itself that provides the problems. It's simply not very action-packed, and as a result gets dull fairly quickly.

OVERALL 71%

**IMPOSSIBLE MISSION**

Impossible Mission sounds great, featuring highly atmospheric effects. It looks stunning. But more importantly it plays absolutely brilliantly. A fantastic game which is destined to become one of THE classic Sega titles.

OVERALL 97%

**INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE**

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade is almost as hard as the hero himself! The graphics and sound are both good, and with five very challenging levels to battle through, this should appeal to those who like their games very tough.

OVERALL 86%

JUNGLE FIGHTER

Jungle Fighter is an enjoyable and straightforward horizontally scrolling hack 'n' slash game. There are a few niggling points, though. The landscapes are large, but the gameplay is a little bit tedious, since Danan can only do a few moves, and although the baddies are numerous, they're not particularly tough. Rastan fans might like it, but don't expect it to challenge you for long.

OVERALL 71%

**JOE MONTANA'S FOOTBALL**

The first John Madden's clone makes it over to the Master System, boasting plenty of action, loads of teams and billions of strategies. Unfortunately, it just doesn't work. The graphics are dull, responsiveness is poor and the slightly rosey collision detection spoils things further. Not too hot.

OVERALL 65%

KENSEIDEN

Action is thin on the ground, but what do you expect from a role-playing game? Some of the still screens are truly superb, and there's plenty of brain-bending puzzles in the game to keep a role-playing fan happy for weeks on end!

OVERALL 85%

KLAX

This superb puzzle game was all the rage in California a while ago. Finally it has wended its weary way to the Master System. So is it any good? Well, yes it is. If brainy-type japes are your bag, check this out.

OVERALL 88%

KUNG-FU KID

Graphically similar in style to Ghost House, this platform game with kung-fu overtones is all jolly fun, but if you're after something with better graphics

and more challenge, take a look at Black Belt before parting with your dosh.

OVERALL 70%

**LASER GHOST**

A not-quite-conversion of Sega's fun-some coin-op. Protect a possessed girlie by shooting all the regional ghosts, either with light phaser or cursor. Fiddly controls wreck things a bit, but it's still quite a jape with nice graphics and plenty of action. Light phaser owners should grab this.

OVERALL 76%

LINE OF FIRE

Another pseudo conversion from those Sega lads. This time the Op Wolf-style gameplay has been replaced by vertically scrolling shoot 'em up action. Trouble is, it's slow, dull and offers few thrills.

OVERALL 46%

LORD OF THE SWORD

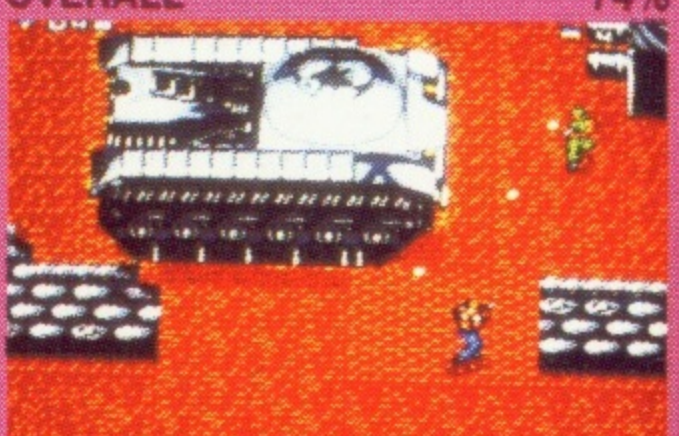
Two game styles meet head-on in this role-playing game with arcade sequences. It's a nice idea in principle which doesn't quite make it due to the rather bland action, and the fact that the role-playing bits are quite weak - there's simply not enough of each game style to satisfy fans of either genre.

OVERALL 74%

MAZE HUNTER 3D

Don your cool 3D shades and enter the maze in this entertaining game of mazes and more mazes. The 3D effect is pretty good, and the game is fun to play, but not Earth-shatteringly brilliant. Not an essential purchase by any means, but if you're after something to go with your 3D glasses, this is worth checking out.

OVERALL 74%

**MERCS**

That last bastion of death, the coin-op Mercs makes its appearance on the Master System. It's violent, it's got good graphics, it's highly playable and it's also very easy. If you think you'll keep coming back to this game even when you've completed it (which should only take two goes at most), check it out.

OVERALL 81%

**MICKEY MOUSE IN THE CASTLE OF ILLUSION**

The eponymous (ha ha) does his stuff in this skill platform game. Great graphics and sound, loads of bonuses, great gameplay and a bit of a challenge make this a cart to get.

OVERALL 93%

**MOONWALKER**

Aaow! Strut your thang in Moonwalker, a platform shoot 'em up starring none other than Michael Jackson himself. The graphics are smart, and it's pretty playable, but be warned, it does get pretty repetitive. Jacko fans and die-hard platformers will love this, though.

OVERALL 80%

MS PACMAN

Gobble dots! Dodge ghosts! Lapse into a coma! Ms Pacman is just regular Pacman with knobs on, even the competitive two player mode wanes after a while, so don't buy this cart. If you're desperate for a Pac title, get Pacmania instead.

OVERALL 31%

MIRACLE WARRIOR

Miracle Warrior is an enjoyable game, and is recommended to arcade fans who enjoy a bit of adventure-style puzzling.

OVERALL 81%

MISSILE DEFENCE 3D

Missile Defence 3D is by no means an essential purchase, but if you're after something to use with your 3D glasses, this is worth having a look at.

OVERALL 76%

MONOPOLY

Unless you're desperate to play Monopoly and never have a friend to play with, you might as well buy the actual board game - it's cheaper, and is a lot more fun than this (after all, you can't argue with the computer!)

OVERALL 69%

MY HERO

This rather odd-looking, cute beat 'em up (strange combination, eh?) requires you to rescue your girlfriend who's been kidnapped by local hoodlums. The game is good fun, but Black Belt is a better example - try that before buying

this.

OVERALL

74%

NINJA

Although the graphics are rather simplistic, the shuriken-lobbing action is challenging and addictive. The difficulty level is nicely pitched so you seem to get a little further into the game each time, and there are ten levels to beat. If you're after a combat game with a difference, this is worth taking a look at.

OVERALL 80%

**OPERATION WOLF**

Take the role of a super-tough commando and blast your way across six horizontally scrolling enemy landscapes using your crosshair sights to aim your gun. Combining good graphics and solid, challenging action, this is an arcade conversion that should be checked out by all Sega shoot 'em up addicts.

OVERALL 88%

**OUT RUN**

Although the 3D update isn't particularly smooth, the graphics are colourful and the gameplay is as addictive as the original coin-op. There are a variety of different ways of finishing the game, and it'll take quite a while to do them all. If you're a race fan, take this one for a spin.

OVERALL 80%

OUT RUN 3D

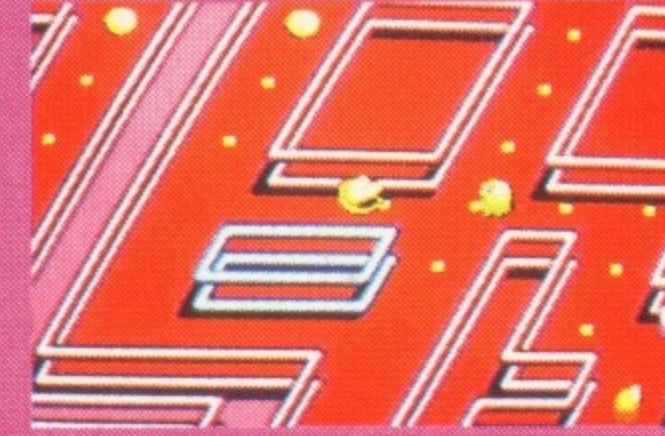
Looks and plays almost identically to the non-3D version, but has the added bonus of effective 3D. Out Run 3D is about the best 3D glasses game around, and should therefore be put at the top of your shopping list (as long as you've actually got a pair of 3D glasses!).

OVERALL 81%

OUTRUN EUROPA

OutRun Europa puts you in control of many different vehicles, from motorcycles to jetskis, in an attempt to thwart an evil terrorist organisation. Sadly, this "variety" doesn't save the game from being a frustrating, bland and desperately mediocre game. With crap graphics.

OVERALL 63%

**PACMANIA**

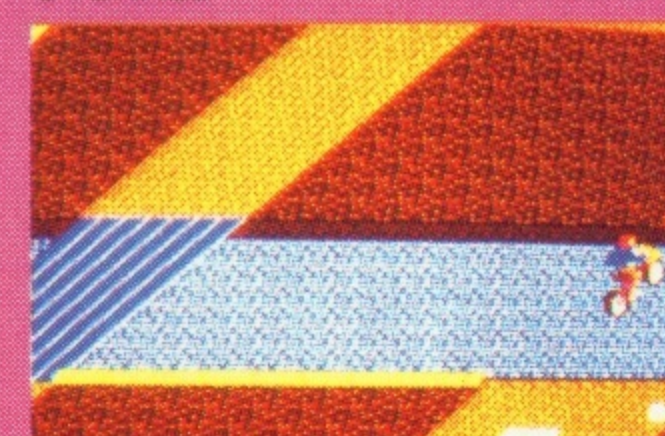
Isometric view dot munching is the order of the day in Pacmania. The graphics are great, there's lots of levels, it's playable, addictive and packs something of a challenge. Make this cart your own and never look back.

OVERALL 90%

PARLOUR GAMES

Combining a variety of "parlour" type board games, this sounds like fun, but in reality it's all rather dull. The games included in the package aren't really ones you'd play if you had them - they're all rather too simple. Maybe this is one for the younger Sega games-players?

OVERALL 47%

**PAPERBOY**

Paperboy is a conversion of the popular arcade game of a few years back, and casts you as a newspaper delivery boy who's round takes him to the weird side of town. With its fantastic graphics and faithful arcade tunes, Paperboy should find a place in any arcade fan's cartridge collection.

OVERALL 89%

PENGUIN LAND

This is a decent little action/puzzle sort of game, made more jolly by the cute and colourful graphics. Unfortunately, the gameplay isn't powerfully addictive stuff, so it's probably most appealing to younger Sega players.

OVERALL 68%

PHANTASY STAR

A sprawling RPG which offers a great depth of gameplay, decent graphics and a good challenge. There are slightly better games of this sort (and cheaper too - this cart costs £40!), but if you're an RPG fan who has them all, this is well worth getting.

OVERALL 75%

POSEIDON WARS 3D

As the name suggests, this is a 3D electro-specs game, which puts you in the middle of a naval war. The action is quite basic shoot 'em up stuff, so all in all, this isn't a particularly stunning game, even with the added dimension.

OVERALL 55%

POWER STRIKE

The fast and frenetic action of this vertically scrolling blaster is what really sets it apart from other Sega games - only when the screen is jam-packed with sprites does the game slow down to any noticeable extent. At the moment, Power Strike remains the best Sega vertical scroller around.

OVERALL

90%

PRO WRESTLING

This version of the old grappling game features some very nice presentation screens, but crap in-game graphics. The sound is pretty awful, but it's the very awkward control mode that really seals this game's doom. Avoid, unless you're a real diehard grappling fanatic.

OVERALL

46%

**PSYCHO FOX**

Featuring plenty of extra rounds and hidden bonuses, Psycho Fox ranks as probably the greatest all-out arcade platform game seen on the Sega Master System. Need we say more?

OVERALL

90%

QUARTET

Featuring bland graphics and sound, this conversion of Sega's uninspiring coin-op is really let down by its complete lack of variety between levels. If you've seen one, you've seen 'em all.

OVERALL

64%

RC GRAND PRIX

RC Grand Prix is a very fast and playable game. It has plenty of tracks too, but it doesn't take very long to complete them all, and after that it all becomes a bit dull.

OVERALL

70%

**R-TYPE**

R-Type is fab, with all the levels of the arcade and a number of secret bonuses. However, although it's got a great line in playability, the sprites sometimes tend to suffer from chronic flicker - especially when a lot is happening on-screen. Still, shoot 'em up fans should seek this out immediately!

OVERALL

91%

RAMBO III

Great graphics and gameplay make this one of the best Light Phaser games

out. If you're a Light Phaser owner who is desperately seeking a brilliant Wolf game, go for Rambo III, but if you're Phaser-less, go for the real McCoy.

OVERALL

89%

**RAMPAGE**

Rampage was a great laugh in the arcades - mainly because it was so fun to be the bad guys for a change! All the fun of being a monster and trashing a city is here to be savoured, with great graphics to boot. Highly recommended.

OVERALL

85%

RASTAN

The Sega version of Rastan isn't a bad slash 'em up, and remains quite faithful to the arcade, but unfortunately, the graphics are a bit fuzzy. The gameplay is quite challenging though and should keep avid sword slingers quite involved for a long time.

OVERALL

79%

RESCUE MISSION

Rescue Mission comes highly recommended, combining graphical excellence with infuriatingly addictive gameplay. The action is slick and fast and should keep you blasting away with your light gun for ages. Go get it - you'll love it!

OVERALL

82%

ROCKY

The graphics in this boxing game are quite spectacular for a Sega, but where the game falls down is in the lastability stakes because there are only three opponents. If there was more game for your money this could have been a contender. As it is, Rocky just doesn't last the full 15 rounds.

OVERALL

62%

RUNNING BATTLE

Platform action is once again the order of the day in Running Battle, which stars you as a super-hard military saboteur. Grab gun icons for a short spell of blasting, or a Power icon for super-speed running capabilities. The trouble is that the poor graphics, slow response time, shoddy collision detection, repetitive gameplay and limited nature of the game spoils the proceedings somewhat.

OVERALL

54%

SCRAMBLE SPIRITS

This is a one or two-player conversion of an extremely obscure coin-op which was one of Sega's few arcade failures. The exceedingly bland gameplay is marred even further by blurred, flickering sprites and the "power-ups" are fairly pitiful, too. Unless you're really desperate for a vertically-scrolling shoot 'em up, this isn't worthy of consider-

ation.

OVERALL

49%

SEGA CHESS

If you're lonely and desperate for a quick... game of chess, Sega Chess is here to help you. It plays a pretty good game (on the higher difficulty settings) but it's quite slow, not very responsive and the hanging around does get on your nerves.

OVERALL

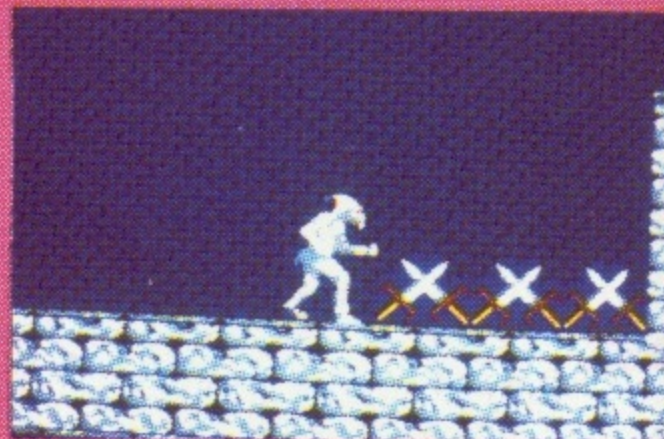
77%

**SHADOW DANCER**

There's ninja japes aplenty in Shadow Dancer - a conversion of the Sega coin-op (but missing the dog). Still, the lack of any canine presence doesn't spoil the game too much, although the stupidly unbalanced difficulty setting is a bit of a downer (the levels are easy and the guardians are ultra-rock-blinking-hard). Not so bad, nevertheless.

OVERALL

71%

**SHADOW OF THE BEAST**

Grrr! Platform game Shadow of the Beast casts you as a mean and ugly monster who must avenge the death of his family by killing the evil Beast Lord. Decent graphics, and it's pretty enjoyable, but a number of small niggles stop it from being a classic.

OVERALL

80%

SHANGHAI

A sort of oriental patience with tiles, Shanghai is one of those games that doesn't look very impressive, but keeps you coming back regularly game after game. It's really therapeutic, and is a great way to relax your brain after a hard day's work.

OVERALL

88%

SHINOBI

Sega Shinobi is a great conversion of a decent coin-op, with literally hours of beat 'em up action jammed in. It has great graphics and jam-hot playability, and since there's hardly any decent Sega beat 'em ups available, there's no excuse not to add this one to your collection.

OVERALL

87%

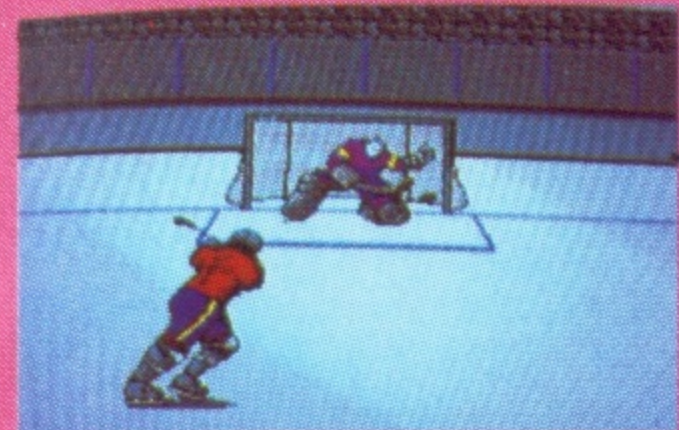
SHOOTING GALLERY

This is the cartridge you used to get free with the Sega Light Phaser, and

features three different shooting games. Zap targets in a police-style firing range before they spin around and disappear, down clay pigeons and zap small animals in a jungle scenario. Worth a go.

OVERALL

70%

**SLAP SHOT**

Both one and two-player options are available in this, and generally speaking, Slap Shot plays a very playable game of ice hockey. The graphics may not be totally awe-inspiring, and the sound's even worse, but in two-player mode the game is a great laugh. Check it out.

OVERALL

82%

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**

Take control of the legendary blue hedgehog as he runs around scrolling platforms dusting the minions of Dr Robotnik. Sonic the Hedgehog is a state of the art 8-bit game, combining incredibly swift scrolling with gob-smacking graphics and interesting gameplay. A must-have.

OVERALL

90%

**SPACE HARRIER**

The basic gameplay is exactly the same as the highly successful 3D coin-op of several years ago, but there are new aliens to blast into oblivion. If you're a fan of Space Harrier, this will obviously have great appeal, but for everyone else, the novelty will wear off very quickly.

OVERALL

77%

SPACE HARRIER 3D

Space Harrier 3D is almost identical to the above version, but works with 3D glasses. It's one of the better 3D games around, and should be tried out.

OVERALL

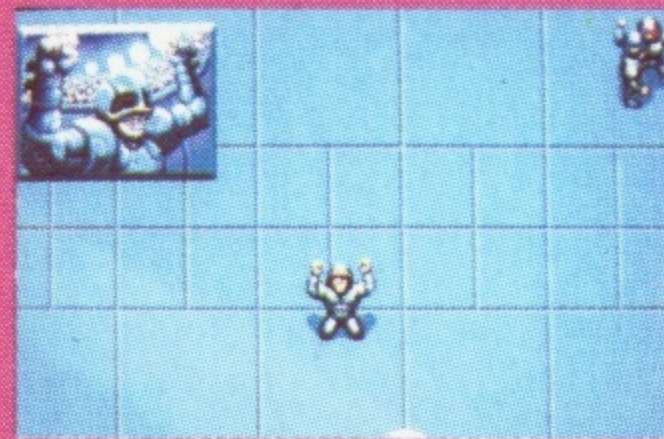
78%

**SPEEDBALL**

This is a pretty good conversion of the Amiga title, especially with the tweaked one-player difficulty setting. However, right now it's overshadowed by its successor - Speedball II.

OVERALL

79%

**SPEEDBALL II**

An updated and improved version of Speedball. Better graphics, better playability and much more depth make Speedball II one of the top Master System sports sims. Give it a go if you're into goals 'n' violence.

OVERALL

89%

SPELLCASTER

This RPG is pretty good, with its action and basic decision-making being very easy to get into. It's especially suited to borderline players who've had enough of shoot 'em ups and want something a little more mentally taxing without actually going all the way to the real RPG stuff of Ultima and Y'S.

OVERALL

84%

**SPIDER-MAN**

Yes, it's yet another platform game, but this one's different. Spidey can do pretty much anything he is capable of in the comics, like web slinging, spinning shields and throwing web-balls. Spider-Man is very playable, has great graphics and sound and will take a lot of work to complete. Highly recommended.

OVERALL

87%

SPY VS SPY

Spy vs Spy ranks as a classic two-player game which won't set the world alight with either its visuals or sonics, but scores extremely highly in the playability department! Our advice is to check out this top-notch offering - pronto.

OVERALL

88%

STRIDER

The Megadrive version of this game was almost arcade perfect. Sadly, this is not. The graphics are OK, but it's very slow and difficult to control. The suspect collision detection and poor responsiveness seal the coffin of this disappointing release.

OVERALL

67%

SUMMER GAMES

Featuring five events (the 100m dash, the pole vault, gymnastics, 100m freestyle swimming and high dive), Summer Games is a big disappointment. All the events feature rubbish graphics and completing them all is as easy as 123. Avoid - even if you love sports games.

OVERALL

37%

**SUPER KICK OFF**

The legendary Super Kick Off looks surprisingly similar to its Amiga counterpart, and plays just as brilliantly! A superb game - one of the finest available on this machine - and a must for all football fans (and anyone else for that matter).

OVERALL

96%

**SUPER MONACO GP**

Although this shares its name with Sega's super 3D road racer coin-op, this isn't a conversion, strictly speaking. But that's not saying it's bad. The 3D is fast and effective 3D and it plays well too, even in a single-player mode in which you race against a field of ruthless computer-driven cars. If you're after some hard-driving thrills, forget the rest - this is the best!

OVERALL

92%

SUPER SPACE INVADERS

The idea behind Super Space Invaders was to take the original coin-op and blend it with some of the modern trappings of shoot 'em ups - power ups and scrolling for example. It works too, and the resulting game is a highly enjoyable blast.

OVERALL

82%

SUPER TENNIS

This being quite an oldie, the action is a tad basic, with no graphical frills or fancy gameplay touches to liven things up. Though it's reasonably playable, it's

certainly no match for the more recent Wimbledon Tennis.

OVERALL 69%

TEDDY BOY

This was never the most outstanding Sega release, but now it's doing the rounds with a price tag of a tenner, it's not such a bad buy. The graphics are cute, and the gameplay, while not fiendishly exciting, is decent enough fun for a fair few hours. A nice little potboiler.

OVERALL 69%

TENNIS ACE

Beaten (just) by Wimbledon Tennis, this is still one of the better Sega sport sims which should keep any tennis fan happy when the municipal court is under six feet of water.

OVERALL 80%

THUNDERBLADE

Thunderblade must have been a pretty tricky coin-op to convert, but the programmers have managed to capture it successfully with this conversion. The graphics are good, the gameplay is challenging and it provides plenty of entertainment for any shoot 'em up fan.

OVERALL 80%

TIME SOLDIERS

The graphics on this obscure coin-op conversion are dinky, but nicely defined, and the Commando-style action is fun - even more so with two players. Shoot 'em up fans should certainly get their fair share of jollies out of this.

OVERALL 73%

TRANSBOT

This early Sega shooter is a bit basic compared to more recent titles such as R-Type, but at least there are extra weapons to keep a bit of variety. The other plus is that now it sells in Sega's ten quid range, so it's well worth rooting out if you're low on moolah.

OVERALL 75%

ULTIMA IV

Though this enormous RPG scores quite low on the graphics-ometer, it has weeks, nay, months of gameplay packed into its chips, and a battery-backed save too! If role-playing is your idea of heaven, get hold of Ultima IV fast!

OVERALL 89%

VIGILANTE

This conversion of the beat 'em up coin-op manages to retain most of the coin-op's graphics and sound, even if the sprites are a bit on the flickery side, and the spot FX a little ropery. The playability remains the same, however, which is the most important thing, so if you're after a not-too-taxing beat 'em up, have a look.

OVERALL 72%

WANTED

If you're keen on shooting gallery style games, this is worth taking a look at. It's by no means a brilliant game, but if you're after a something to use with your light gun you could do a lot worse

than this.

OVERALL 70%

WIMBLEDON TENNIS

This is the best Sega tennis game by a minuscule margin. It's fast, there are lots of modes of play and the championship tournament takes a lot of practice to win. The two-player mode is even more fun. Well worth considering if you have a second player lying around.

OVERALL 80%

WONDERBOY

Although this is starting to show its age a little, and is a little on the repetitive side, Wonderboy is still a bundle of fun, with cutesy graphics and a jolly soundtrack to add to the appeal.

OVERALL 80%

WONDERBOY IN MONSTERLAND

Better than the first installment by a long shot, Wonderboy II is a game that'll have you clamped to your pad for absolutely ages, but isn't a game that you'll complete in a hurry. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 87%

WONDERBOY III

Wonderboy III has to rank as one of the greatest Master System games ever! It has a look and feel slightly reminiscent of the Nintendo Mario series (no bad thing) and a depth of gameplay second to none. Make sure it's in your collection - NOW!

OVERALL 96%



WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD

It's a golf game. What more can we say? Well, it's got extensive tournament play, realistic action, loads of courses and it's very challenging. If you're a golf fan or you're after a good game with which to unwind, World Class Leaderboard is the cart for you.

OVERALL 92%

WORLD CUP ITALIA 90

This is a rubbish soccer game. The controls are poor, the graphics are naff and the sound is awful. Buy Super Kick Off instead, or if you want a side-on viewed soccer game, check out World Cup Soccer.

OVERALL 48%

WORLD CUP SOCCER

Highly entertaining side-viewed soccer game which was by far the best console football game until Super Kick Off came along. It's now available on Sega's budget range for only £14.99

and at that price is an absolute bargain. Check it out!

OVERALL 85%

WORLD GAMES

Featuring log-rolling, bull riding, barrel jumping and caber tossing, this is a complete disappointment. Although graphically pleasing, what's there soon becomes very samey and terminal boredom swiftly sets in. Your best bet is to leave this one well alone.

OVERALL 50%

WORLD GRAND PRIX

A very decent race game which is graphically impressive and features challenging and enjoyable racing action. It's not as good as Super Monaco GP, but is sufficiently different enough



to be worth looking at if you've already got that.

OVERALL 81%

XENON 2

It's another Amiga conversion - this time of the great Bitmap Bros vertically scrolling shoot 'em up. The graphics are great, if the scrolling is a little jerky. Still, it's the gameplay that counts, and Xenon 2 scores highly here. If only it had a few more levels, it would have been a classic.

OVERALL 84%

Y'S

This really is a huge RPG, but luckily, there is a battery game save option to make things easier. The graphics are slightly better than Ultima's character sprites, making this look a bit like Nintendo's first Zelda game. The emphasis is heavily on the role-playing though, so it doesn't really have the same universal appeal.

OVERALL 88%

ZAXXON 3D

A bastardised version of the coin-op which requires 3D glasses, this is a really naff game which suffers from extremely boring gameplay. Give it a miss.

OVERALL 32%

ZILLION

A big, tough, but ultimately tedious platform game. Worth a look if you're a complete and utter platform game nut, but most players will find it all a bit too much.

OVERALL 71%

ZILLION II

Similar to Zillion, but with loads of add-on weapons, an added jet-bike sequence and some nifty beat 'em up action. If you like Zillion, go for it. If you didn't, steer clear.

OVERALL 74%

AX BATTLER

Join Ax Battler in this scrolling RPG romp (very) loosely based on the Golden Axe coin-op. Watch out though! The beat 'em up element is extremely poor and the adventure itself is dull and uninspiring. Playing Ax Battler is a lot like jumping off a cliff - one go is more than enough, and isn't really recommended at all.

OVERALL 39%

COLUMNS

This is a very good Tetris clone. Instead of making horizontal lines, your job here is to create rows of colours with the aid of the falling blocks of crystals. Fast, addictive and very taxing, but yet and at the same time very relaxing. A great buy.

OVERALL 88%

CHASE HQ

Join Raymond and Tony as they speed around in their Porsche ramming criminal cars off the road in this conversion of the popular Taito coin-op. This is a lot faster and playable than the Master System version and is well worth checking out.

OVERALL 87%



DONALD DUCK: THE LUCKY DIME CAPER

Argggghh! Scrooge McDuck's lucky dime has been half-inched by an evil witch! Pausing only to collect his trusty mallet, Donald Duck gives chase along various horizontally scrolling levels. What we have here is a super platform game that's even more lastable than Sonic the Hedgehog. An essential Game Gear buy!

OVERALL 92%

DRAGON CRYSTAL

Save the world from certain doom in this RPGish adventure exploration game. Although offering nothing significantly new, Dragon Crystal has decent enough graphics, sound and gameplay and should appeal to fans of the genre.

OVERALL 70%

FACTORY PANIC

Known as Hassle Golby in Japan, this game actually casts you as Mikhail Gorbachev, out to feed the starving Soviets by guiding food on conveyor belts towards them. This game is actually quite a laugh, with pretty good graphics and sound. The simplistic nature of the gameplay makes it an addictive and worthwhile game.

OVERALL 82%

FANTASY ZONE

Flying around the bizarre scrolling backdrops shooting the excrement out of

everything that moves is the name of the game here. Fantasy Zone is probably one of the best blasters out on the Game Gear at the moment and well worth considering.

OVERALL 84%

GALAGA '91

This is a superlative version of the back-to-basics shoot 'em up, featuring excellent graphics, rumbling sounds and highly addictive blasting gameplay. Recommended for the Game Gear owner who likes a good blaster in his cartridge collection.

OVERALL 85%

G-LOC

Fly around the 3D landscape taking out enemy planes and installations in this hand-held conversion of the graphically stunning Sega coin-op. The graphics on G-Loc are okay, but the gameplay is fast and furious and there are plenty of levels to conquer.

OVERALL 82%

HALLEY WARS

Halley Wars puts you right in the thick of it as a space ace pilot, who gets his kicks by flying up the screen in his ship, shooting lots of things. The graphics and sound are both average and the blasting action, although initially appealing, soon wears off.

OVERALL 69%

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP

This arcade conversion looks more like Final Blow, than Heavyweight Champ, but that doesn't alter the fact that this game is something of a shambles. The graphics are okay, but the gameplay is so easy and mind-numbingly unexciting that you can't help but think that there are better things to spend £25.00 on.

OVERALL 46%

INDIANA JONES III

Join Indiana Jones as he runs around five levels of platform action, causing aggravation to Nazis in an attempt to locate the holy grail. Graphically, this shows you exactly what the Game Gear is capable of. It's just a shame that it's so hard as this does tend to put you off a bit, but otherwise, this is a pretty fine game.

OVERALL 83%

JOE MONTANA FOOTBALL

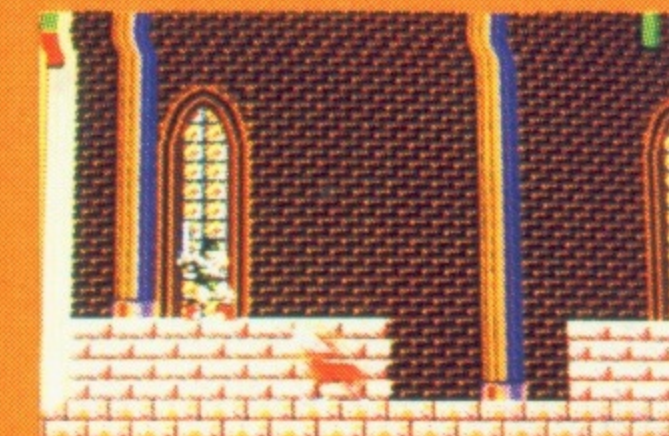
Joe Montana has officially endorsed this sideways scrolling American Football game. The graphics are excellent, but the game suffers because there's a lack of depth and excitement. It's also flippin' easy, and even the most retarded games player should have no difficulty dusting this game.

OVERALL 65%

MICKY MOUSE

Oh no! A crazed witch by the name of Mizrabel has kidnapped Minnie Mouse, Mickey's true love! So Mickey attempts the inevitable rescue bid by travelling through the many scrolling platform levels in the Castle of Illusion. This is excellent, with fab backdrops and awe-

some gameplay. Another Game Gear winner.



OVERALL 91%

NINJA GAIDEN

Become Ryu the master ninja as he scoots along the horizontally scrolling backdrops, dusting various beings of an evil disposition. This very fast, extremely furious and is only marred by being a tad on the easy side.

OVERALL 86%

OUTRUN

Take the wheel of a Ferrari Testarossa and speed along the 3D roads in an effort to reach the finishing post in the gruelling Outrun race. This has disappointing graphics and warbling sounds, but the real problem is that the game just isn't really that much fun to play.

OVERALL 64%

PACMAN

There's not really much to tell about this one. PacMan is an arcade-perfect conversion of the classic coin-op. If PacMan is your bag, you'll no doubt pee your pants over this one. Others are more likely to have a few goes and then get bored with it pretty quickly.

OVERALL 49%

PENGO

Adopt the heroic mantle of a vengeance-crazed penguin out to crush marauding invaders with big blocks of ice in this decent conversion of the ageing coin-op. Like PacMan, this is simple and quite addictive, but the novelty soon wears off very quickly.

OVERALL 48%

PSYCHIC WORLD

Psychic World is a side-on scrolling game full to the brim with strange and mysterious beings, out to dust your baboon-like posterior. Psychic World is average in every respect, but the chances are that you'll grow bored with it very quickly.

OVERALL 55%

PUTT 'N' PUTTER GOLF

This is quite similar to the Megadrive game, Zany Golf, with its isometric 3D perspective, and it's pretty good fun to play. The problem is that the game is about as easy as picking your nose, and even though there are loads of levels, the game soon grows quite stale.

OVERALL 59%

RASTAN

Run around the scrolling medieval backdrops, slashing up enemies with your impressive chopper. The graphics and sound are both okay, but the gameplay

is quite repetitive and becomes pretty boring after a surprisingly short time.



SHINOBI

Five levels' worth of scrolling slash 'em up activity await in this Game Gear adaptation of the Sega coin-op. This game has exceptional graphics and sound along with gameplay that brings you back to the Game Gear again and again.

OVERALL 91%

SOLITAIRE POKER

You can't honestly expect superlative graphics or sound here, but what you do get is a no-gimmicks game of poker, which is fine if you like that sort of thing. However, we can't help but think that getting together with some chums and spending a few pence on a deck of cards is a lot cheaper and plenty more fun than playing this.

OVERALL 70%



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

Sega's blue, spiky hedgehog icon hits the Game Gear in a fast moving platform game with superlative graphics. This is an excellent Game Gear title, stretching its 8-bit technology to the limits. It's fun and addictive too (if a tad easy) and is well worth investing in.

OVERALL 91%

SPIDER-MAN

The Amazing Spider-Man hits the Game Gear in style as he battles the Kingpin, Venom, the Lizard, Doctor Octopus, Electro, Sandman and Hobgoblin over a number of eight-way scrolling stages. This is great fun to play and very challenging to boot. It's a must-buy for all potential web-slingers and indeed anyone after a good platform game.

OVERALL 86%

SPACE HARRIER

Fly around the third person perspective world of the Fantasy Zone, blowing away all manner of strange and weird enemies. This emulates the gameplay of the coin-op pretty well, but the graphics are blocky and uninspiring and the simplistic gameplay grows tedious

very quickly.



SUPER KICK OFF

This Game Gear conversion of the best soccer game ever is a real winner, with fast, responsive action and exciting ball-handling. With one or two-players, this is nothing short of a hand-held miracle and ranks as the best Game Gear cart money can buy.

OVERALL 96%

SUPER MONACO GP

One or two players can try to satisfy that need for speed by taking part in Super Monaco GP. This conversion isn't very faithful at all to the massive Sega coin-op, but it is mildly diverting for a while. Unfortunately, the action wears thin very quickly and the graphics and sound are rubbish.

OVERALL 58%

WAGAN LAND

This horizontally scrolling platform game is probably the nearest you can get to Mario-style action on a mini screen. It's got excellent graphics and playability, although some players may find it a bit easy.

OVERALL 85%

WONDERBOY

This coin-op conversion remains pretty close to the original arcade machine, with the same brand of cute horizontally scrolling action. The problem with this game is that there isn't much variety between each level in terms of graphical style or gameplay and as such, it grows quite monotonous very quickly.

OVERALL 61%

WOODY POP

Don't be misled by the bizarre title. Woody Pop is a thinly-disguised version of Breakout with all the thrills, spills and indeed the excitement of visiting the toilet. Should Breakout games appeal to you, you'll doubtlessly explode with pleasure on playing this game. Others will see it as the superficial, limp shambles that it is.

OVERALL 33%

WORLD CLASS LEADERBOARD

This is an excellent third person perspective golfing simulation from US Gold. The graphics are ace, sporting some detailed course graphics and the sound is fab with sarcastic speech taking the Michael at every opportunity. With its four 18-hole courses, there's plenty of game for your money too. An essential buy.

OVERALL 92%

ALLEYWAY

A sad version of the ancient game, Breakout, this is one of the most simplistic, tedious and unchallenging games available on the Gameboy and should only be bought by simpering buffoons with more money than sense.

OVERALL 27%

BALLOON KID

Become a balloon's best friend in this rather weird floating collect 'em up. Not only is it strange, but it's also very dull. Things get repetitive very soon and the unresponsive controls don't do this cart any favours either.

OVERALL 51%

BART SIMPSON'S ESCAPE FROM CAMP DEADLY

Bart's been packed off to summer camp and he's not too happy about it. Help him escape in this multi-level platform game, throwing fruit, dodging other campers and generally having quite a smart time. An enjoyable if not overly original title which will take some beating.

OVERALL 85%

BASEBALL

With its two-player link-up option and addictive gameplay, Baseball is recommended to sports fans on the move.

OVERALL 75%

BATMAN

With small, but nicely detailed graphics and excellent sound, Batman is one of the most addictive Gameboy platform games around. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 91%

BATTLETOADS

Gasp! The evil Dark Queen has kidnapped two of the mighty Battletoads! You, as the third member Zitz, must now launch a rescue bid in this beat 'em up with platform overtones. Although the graphics are fiddly, this is a great game which any self respecting beat 'em up fan should have.

OVERALL 90%

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Beach Volleyball is a frustratingly difficult console version of the sport where two teams of two battle on the beaches and attempt to rack up the most points. Once you get into the action, it's quite good fun, but doesn't really have the appeal of Tennis or Baseball.

OVERALL 64%

BOMBER BOY

This puzzle game caused something of a stir on the PC Engine - and the Gameboy version is just as good! You must place strategic bombs in an attempt to clear each screen of baddies before advancing onto the next, harder screen. Simple but very addictive, and the second (slightly different) version of the game included on the cartridge makes it great value.

OVERALL 88%

BOULDERDASH

Take the mantle of Rockford, diamond miner extraordinaire in this conversion

of the age-old coin-op. Still, the gameplay is just as fresh as the day it was conceived, with many levels of puzzling as you try to grab the jewels and dodge the boulders and find your way to the exit without blocking yourself in. A challenging puzzle game with which to while away the hours.

OVERALL 90%

BUGS BUNNY'S CRAZY CASTLE

Oh dear, it seems that Bugs has misplaced all his carrots around his seventy-odd floor mansion. Now you must guide him through his pad to find the lot. Trouble is, his house is also patrolled by many mean creatures lusting for his bunny blood. They can have it as far as we're concerned, because Crazy Castle is a shambling, slow and repetitive attempt at a game.

OVERALL 39%

BURAI FIGHTER DELUXE

Take to the skies once more in this horizontally-scrolling shoot 'em up type story of a mega-powerful robot and his fight against injustice. The graphics are pretty good, there's always lots to do and the action is pretty fast paced. A decent quality shoot 'em up and no mistake.

OVERALL 83%

BURGERTIME

Burgertime must rank as the world's first fast food creation simulator. Now the coin-op of yesteryear has returned, and it's ideal Gameboy material. The idea is to drop burger ingredients into a dish from some platforms by running over them (not very hygienic), to make your job harder you are chased by monstrous pickles and hot dogs. Low on graphics but high on playability, Burgertime is a real laugh, although it does get very repetitive after the first few levels.

OVERALL 78%

CASTLEVANIA

Take control of Simon, a whip-wielding hero and battle your way through four large scrolling platform landscapes. The gameplay is addictive, and keeps you going for quite a while - but be prepared for some annoyance, because there are some nasty hidden surprises that don't make themselves apparent until it's too late to do anything about them.

OVERALL 79%

CASTLEVANIA II

A hundred years has passed and Dracula has arisen anew. Now Simon Belmont's grandson Solmeiyu must deal with the threat in another multi-level platform and whipping extravaganza. Castlevania II builds upon the original formula but makes it much harder, faster and less frustrating. Grab this one quickly.

OVERALL 91%

CHASE HQ

Oh dear, converting this coin-op to the Gameboy wasn't really a very good idea was it? Try as it might, the Gameboy just can't cope with the speed necessary to make this game really

thrilling. The result is slow, sluggish and particularly tedious.

OVERALL 42%

CHESSMASTER

This chess sim has appeared on loads of formats, but this is the best version to date. The game is hard but logical and all the rules of chess are accounted for. The difficulty levels are well set, so beginners can pick it up straight away and grand masters won't find the going ridiculously easy. Best of all, of course, it's fully portable so you can exercise your brain at any time you like.

OVERALL 96%

CONTRA

Contra is a conversion of a coin-op better known in this country as Gryzor. It's a platform blaster for the most part, with a couple of maze levels thrown in for variety. It's fast, full of action and packs enough of a challenge to keep you going for some time. Blasting fans should give it a whirl.

OVERALL 91%

DOUBLE DRAGON

With great graphics and sound, Double Dragon is an excellent mini-replica of the classic arcade game, featuring all the original's thrills and spills. There's even a two-player link-up option for simultaneous vigilante antics! A must for beat 'em up fans.

OVERALL 83%

DOUBLE DRAGON II

Improves on the original with better graphics and gameplay. Some might find it a bit too similar to the first, but beat 'em up fans will love it!

OVERALL 88%

DRAGON'S LAIR

Not as we feared a conversion of the spectacularly bad coin-op, but in fact a completely original platform game. Spectacular graphics, great sound and frenetic action make this one to watch out for.

OVERALL 89%

DR MARIO

Nintendo's own Tetris clone makes it to the Gameboy, and it's great. Highly recommended to puzzle fans.

OVERALL 87%

DUCK TALES

Although there are loads of other platform games on the Gameboy, this one has unmistakable Disney graphical touch and oodles of playability. The problem is that it's not very hard, so expert gamers should give it a miss.

OVERALL 78%

F1 RACE

The first four-player Gameboy game is here - and it even comes with a free four-way adaptor! The game itself is an excellent OutRun-view race, with what must be some of the fastest scrolling seen on a Gameboy! Great fun and excellent value for money.

OVERALL 88%

FACEBALL

Faceball is a highly suspenseful maze

game in which you never know what's around the corner. Atmospheric, original, entertaining and thoroughly recommended to those looking for something different.

OVERALL 91%

FINAL FANTASY II

Basically this is an RPG in the Zelda style with loads of locations to visit and people to meet, not to mention monsters to fight! In fact, it's only the drawn-out combat sequences that stop this from being a Megagame.

OVERALL 88%

FLIPPUL

Flippul is a highly original puzzle game which is recommended to people who like to use their brains rather than their joysticks.

OVERALL 83%

FORTRESS OF FEAR

A sort of medieval Double Dragon. The graphics and sound are good and the playability is solid enough to keep you coming back.

OVERALL 80%

GARGOYLE'S QUEST

Some pretty good gamesplaying skills are required to make your way around this game's unfriendly platform environment, but it's all very addictive, and should be checked out by hardened platform fans.

OVERALL 80%

GAUNTLET II

A perfect mini-replica of the classic coin-op that contains all the graphics (in black 'n' white), speech and playability of the coin-op. There's even a skill two-player mode. A must for Gauntlet fans.

OVERALL 88%

GHOSTBUSTERS II

With humorous graphics and some quite decent tunes, Ghostbusters II manages to both entertain and challenge, with six different missions to test your brains and reflexes. Well worth taking a look at.

OVERALL 81%

GOLF

This is a great golf game that plays a great game of golf. Need we say more?

OVERALL 88%

GREMLINS II

Once more it's platform a go-go with Gremlins II. As the Mogwai it's your job to rid the world of those troublesome Gremlins utilising the many traps and weapons littered around the landscape. Gremlins II is certainly challenging and it has some wonderful graphics.

OVERALL 80%

HYPER LODERUNNER

If you enjoy a really tough challenge, this platform game is highly recommended. Normal players, however, might find themselves wanting to smash the cartridge up after a couple of goes - it's that hard!

OVERALL 71%

KING OF THE ZOO

If you've ever wondered what zoo animals do all day long King of the Zoo will tell you - they play marbles. Yes, King of the Zoo is an entertaining marbles variant starring a number of cute creatures. It's a real laugh for a while - although the low number of opponents makes it quite easy to beat.

OVERALL 87%

KWIRK

This is a puzzle game where your tomato (!) must shift oddly shaped blocks into gaping holes to traverse mazes and reach the exit. It's really a sort of Soko Ban clone - but a lot more fun.

OVERALL 85%

LAST BATTLE

Last Battle is a one-on-one beat 'em up in which the player battles a variety of different opponents. It's quite fun at first, but the problem is that the moves are limited and the opponents are fairly easy to beat. The game provides some fun for a while, but really the action is just too dull to keep you enthralled for very long.

OVERALL 52%

MARBLE MADNESS

Guide your marble around a number of increasingly tricky slalom slopes, featuring many pitfalls such as acid pools, giant vacuums and even killer black marbles! This is one of those games which is perfectly suited to the Gameboy, and although it's short on levels, it's long on playability.

OVERALL 87%

MASTER KARATEKA

Featuring excellent, beautifully animated graphics and atmospheric sounds, Master Karateka is an enjoyable and addictive beat 'em up from the same designer that brought you Prince of Persia. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 87%

MICKEY MOUSE

Poor old Mickey's stuck in a nasty platform world where everyone's out to get him. It's simple, but is still pretty good fun, and there's a password system which lets you carry on from where you left off. Try it out if you're into mice.

OVERALL 72%

MONSTER TRUCKS

Monster trucks is something of an Super Off-Road Racer variant - but without the playability. The graphics are quite nice but there's no real compulsion to play. Wait for the official Super Off-Road.

OVERALL 65%

MOTOCROSS

Motocross has never been any weirder than in this off-road biking game! It's tricky, but is good fun - especially against a computer opponent - and provides plenty of amusement for a while.

OVERALL 76%

NAVY BLUE

Navy Blue is a console version of the old pencil and paper game Battleships,

and as such it's a bit redundant. After all, for the price of the cartridge you could go out and buy tons of paper and a gold-plated propelling pencil and play the game as much as you like. Still, Battleships fans should enjoy it.

OVERALL 61%

NAVY SEALS

This platform shoot 'em up is amazingly super hard. If you think you can ignore the lack of originality and you're a good enough gamesplayer not to get too frustrated, Navy Seals is well worth a look.

OVERALL 80%

NINTENDO WORLD CUP

This is a shambolic mockery of a clapped-out soccer game. There's no real control over your players, the computer has no knowledge of tactics and the responsiveness and collision detection are sadness incarnate.

OVERALL 31%

NEMESIS

A great conversion based on the classic coin-op. The graphics are quite nicely drawn, and the action is clear and easy-to-see. It's not simple, and shoot 'em up fans should really get into the action. Go for it!

OVERALL 88%

NFL FOOTBALL

When you look at the screenshots, this looks great. But once you see the crippled outcasts from a hunchbacks convention blurring their way around the screen like freeze-dried slugs you soon get put off. And when the action gets hectic, you end up with a writhing mass of pixels which you can't make head nor tail of. Give it a miss.

OVERALL 33%

OTHELLO

Although it mightn't look or sound it, Othello is an addictive and enjoyable board game which you'll go back to time and time again.

OVERALL 89%

PACHINKO TIME

Based on the Japanese ball-bearing games that are incredibly popular in the Land of the Rising Sun, Pachinko time suffers from the "unless you can speak Japanese you won't get anywhere in this game" blues. So unless you can speak the language, don't buy it.

OVERALL N/A

PACMAN

Pacman is as Pacman does, and this is as flawless a conversion of the crumbly arcade game as you will find. This will make some players leap for joy, others will find it enjoyable for a quick go now and then. Give it a go if you're a Pacfan.

OVERALL 80%

PAPERBOY

Ultra-blurry graphics, rubbish bike handling and dodgy collision detection are the three main flaws present in this disappointing conversion that will appeal to arcade fans only.

OVERALL 67%

PINBALL

Pinball features a three-screen-high flick-screen table which is complete with bumpers, flippers, drop targets and even hidden bonus screens! It's pretty tricky to play, but the ball movement is so realistic you find yourself tilting your Gameboy around to try and influence where the ball goes! It's all jolly fun and should go down well with the pinball wizards amongst us.

OVERALL 79%

PIPEDREAM

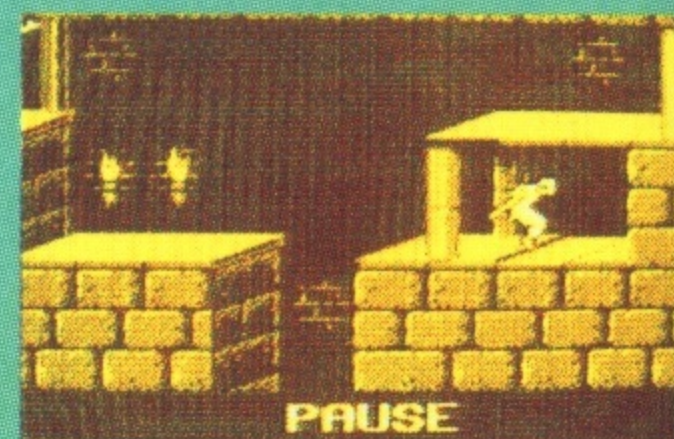
This is a conversion of a puzzle game better known over here as Pipemania in which pipes must be linked together in a chain to win the game. It's great fun, is highly addictive and is thoroughly recommended to puzzle fans.

OVERALL 87%

POPEYE

A conversion of the ancient Atari coin-op, Popeye has all the features of the original machine squeezed down to fit inside a Gameboy. There are four different screens in all, and while it's entertaining in the short-term, it hasn't got the lasting appeal to keep you playing for weeks.

OVERALL 68%



PRINCE OF PERSIA

This must rank as one of the greatest platform games of all time, and its combination of fiendish puzzles and pinpoint platform action certainly make this version a winner. Add to that the same spectacular animation and you have a definite must-buy cartridge.

OVERALL 92%

PUNISHER

It had to happen - at last there's an Operation Wolf-style game on the Gameboy. Contrary to our worst fears however, it's actually pretty good. The cursor movement is fast and responsive, the graphics are quite detailed and there's lots of death. What more could you ask for?

OVERALL 81%

QUARTH

Looking like a cross between Tetris and Space Invaders, Quarth is an enjoyable and addictive little game which offers plenty of challenge and lasting appeal. Try it out if you're after something different.

OVERALL 90%

QIX

Qix is a very strange game, but is nevertheless addictive. If it had been enhanced rather like PC Engine Volfied it would have been a real stunner. As it stands it's just an entertaining game which has plenty of long-lasting appeal.

OVERALL

81%

RC PRO AM

Those Rare guys are at it again - converting one of their fab NES carts to the Gameboy. This time it's of the isometric-view radio controlled car racing game. The body shop adds something to the game and it's certainly highly playable, even if it does suffer from a bit of a lack of variety.

OVERALL 87%

RESCUE OF PRINCESS BLOBBETTE

NES Boy and His Blob was quite a laugh, so Lord knows where the programmers went wrong with this one. The puzzling jelly bean action would be fun, but there's too many wide open spaces where nothing happens. A shame.

OVERALL 68%

REVENGE OF THE 'GATOR

At last there's a great pinball game on the Gameboy, full of ramps, bumpers, multi-balls, bonuses and all the trappings you'd expect from a four-screen table. Pinball fans will relish it.

OVERALL 91%

ROBOCOP

This ranks as one of the most successful games of all time and was converted to almost every format known to man. This version is pretty good, but the small graphics make things like the targeting and face matching sections very difficult, which is a shame because otherwise it would be great.

OVERALL 72%

ROBOCOP II

Taking the platform elements of Robocop and ditching all the other sub-levels, Robocop II is much better than its predecessor. It's very hard and there are some unforgiving annoyances, but experienced gamers should love it.

OVERALL 90%

R-TYPE

The Gameboy now plays host to one of the best known shoot 'em ups ever. Use your top flying skills to survive in this pretty tough conversion of the coin-op. The graphics are pretty good and it's highly playable, although the small screen can make things a bit fiddly.

OVERALL 82%

SHANGHAI

Shanghai is a tile-shifting puzzle game that doesn't look very impressive, but keeps you coming back regularly game after game. It's really therapeutic, and is a great way to relax your brain after a hard day's work.

OVERALL 90%

SIDE POCKET

Side Pocket is a pool simulation in the best tradition. Playing is a matter of plotting ball angles and tapping the ball with the correct force required. Master ballistics professors will love this one, although anyone else's interest may wane pretty quickly.

OVERALL

73%

SOCCER BOY

Oh dear! Chronic, wheezing, swollen-headed footballers meander aimlessly around the screen attempting to kick a football that looks like it's filled with sand into badly-drawn goals. Even if you're the biggest football fan in the universe, don't get this. You'd be better off giving your money to charity than wasting it on this tosh.

OVERALL 16%

SKATE OR DIE (TOUR DE THRASH)

Whilst this has a promising title and looks like it might be fun, the implementation is poor. The main game is a just a viewed from behind showjumping variant. The bonus half-pipe event is quite entertaining but doesn't justify the price tag at all.

OVERALL 63%

SKATE OR DIE II (RAD 'N' BAD)

Skate or Die II is an entirely different game from the original. It's a super-speedy platform skate game with lots of montoya skate-style action to be had. If your interest in conventional platform games is waning, try this for size.

OVERALL 81%

SOKO BAN

This strange puzzle game involves the player moving boxes around store rooms. It doesn't sound exciting, and indeed it isn't, but the action is absorbing nonetheless, and puzzle fans should relish the considerable challenge.

OVERALL 78%

SOLAR STRIKER

After a couple of goes this up-the-screen shooter soon becomes boring. It's alright, but there are no real surprises to keep you going back to it.

OVERALL 69%

SPACE INVADERS

Space Invaders, the Granddaddy of all modern arcade games, appears on the Gameboy and looks exactly the same as it did when it first appeared in 1977. If you want to reminisce, do so by all means. But those more used to today's blasting games might become bored very quickly.

OVERALL 73%

SPIDERMAN

Spiderman is a thoroughly enjoyable beat 'em up which has some amazing graphics and plenty of variety. A must for wall-crawlers everywhere.

OVERALL 85%

SUPER KICK OFF

The greatest football game ever is now on the Gameboy and it's as good as could possibly be expected. Obviously the small, monochrome screen does present certain problems, but the speed and playability of the original are still there. Easily the best sports game on the Gameboy.

OVERALL 93%

SUPER MARIO LAND

Although this brilliant game doesn't take long to finish, there are loads of secret things to uncover and the gameplay's so good you just keep on going back to it! A must-buy for platform fans everywhere.

OVERALL 90%

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

A decent beat 'em up with plenty of action and some great graphics to drool over. Turtle fans are bound to go bonkers over this.

OVERALL 90%

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II

It's more of the same down in Turtle land. Another beat 'em up with large, clear and well-animated sprites along with a smidgen of platforming. It's harder than the original and there's also some sampled speech. Once again, Turtle fans will love this.

OVERALL 85%

TENNIS

One of the best Tennis games available on any system, this is challenging, addictive, and lets you play virtually any shot you could normally do with a racket. Highly recommended.

OVERALL 86%

TERMINATOR 2

As film licenses go, this must rank as one of the best going. There are only five levels, but there's plenty of variety, an enjoyable puzzle section (for once) and loads of action, along with great graphics and sound. It won't take too long to complete, but it's still a fab game.

OVERALL 90%

TETRIS

Free with the UK version of the Gameboy, this puzzle game is absolutely terrific and unbelievably addictive. It's incredibly easy to get into and is one of the best Gameboy games yet seen.

OVERALL 95%

WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT

Sure the film is knocking on a bit now, but that hasn't stopped Capcom from bringing out a new tie-in. It's a sort of RPG, with you as the eponymous rabbit who must search for clues and evidence to clear his name and defeat the nefarious villain at the end of it all. It's pretty good, but a little simplistic and none too challenging. Definitely one for less experienced role-players though.

OVERALL 77%

WWF SUPERSTARS

Get into the ring with famous names such as Hulk Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior, and then promptly get thrown back out. WWF has great graphics and loads of moves but the tournament is far too easy to win. If you have a second player around often, though, it's a great link-up game.

OVERALL 85%



ACTRAISER

Actraiser is a totally brilliant mixture of a Populous-style game and Rastan Saga platform action. Both game styles are exceptionally good to play and the music ranks as some of the best yet to issue forth from a console. Truly marvelous.

OVERALL 92%

AUGUSTA OPEN GOLF

This game adopts the usual style of 3D play, but this version has truly lovely graphics and amazingly realistic sound. The problem is that the display takes ages to build-up, making the pace of the game slow and unexciting. Wait until PGA Tour Golf appears on the Super NES.

OVERALL 61%

BATTLE DODGEBALL

This ultra-violent side-on scrolling game has a rather bizarre objective. Instead of scoring goals, it's your aim to chuck the ball straight at the opposing players. The ball injures them on contact, you see. The winner is the player with the most remaining players. Dull and graphically retarded, Battle Dodgeball is best avoided.

OVERALL 51%

BIG RUN

Jaleco's first Super NES release is an extremely poor interpretation of the flop coin-op. Big Run is quite fast, but it's very jerky and extremely easy to complete, and as such, is not recommended at all unless you get a big thrill out of wasting £40.00.

OVERALL 30%

BOMBUZAL

The isometric puzzle game was one of the first Super Famicom releases in Japan. Nintendo aren't bothering with it in the States or Europe because it's graphically dull, sonically retarded and isn't much fun to play either. Don't even buy it if you locate it in some bargain bucket somewhere - it's that dull.

OVERALL 43%

CHESSMASTER

The oldest surviving game of strategy hits the Super NES! Chess is chess really, but this version has an accomplished computer opponent with many difficulty levels. However, the graphics aren't great, and facing up to a human opponent over a real board is cheaper and a lot more fun.

OVERALL 77%

CONTRA SPIRITS

The finest 16-bit console shoot 'em up money can buy! Contra Spirits has all the blasting you'll require from a game

along with incredible graphics, amazing orchestral soundtracks and uncanny addictive qualities! An essential buy!

OVERALL 95%

DARIUS TWIN

One of the earliest Super NES side-on shooters, this is an okay conversion of Taito's triple screen coin-op. The game's biggest draw is its simultaneous two-player action. The graphics are great, but the gameplay is unspectacular. Go for UN Squadron or Contra Spirits.

OVERALL 78%

DIMENSION FORCE

It's time to save the world again as you and your spaceship take the Last Train to Vertically Scrolling Blaster Central. This game is noted for its obnoxious graphics, jerky scrolling (especially when you fire), and vapid soundtracks. If you want to waste your money, set fire to it rather than exchange it for this game.

DRAKKEN

Using a mixture of sprites and vectors, this RPG is okay for fans of the genre. Fans of arcade action will instantly be put off by the non-excitement this offers and the lacking combat system.

OVERALL 61%

GRADIUS III

Konami's official conversion of Gradius III (or Vulcan Venture as its known in arcades in this country) is a decent enough horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up with excellent graphics and sound. However, the problem is that the game tends to slow down an awful lot and the sprites flicker. Ugh! UN Squadron or Super R-Type should be considered before this.

OVERALL 75%

FINAL FANTASY II

Once again we travel to RPG Land, where men look like refugees from Lowry's paintings and combat is a highly exciting affair taken in turns by each participant. The intro to this game is pretty good, but the quest itself is dull and tedious. This is best left alone, even by RPG fans.

OVERALL 42%



FINAL FIGHT

Capcom have a reputation for producing fine Super NES games, and Final Fight is no exception. It's very close to the coin-op original with one level, one character and the two-player mode removed. Beat 'em up fans will probably explode with excitement when they play this.

OVERALL 93%

FORMULA ONE EXHAUST HEAT

Get behind the wheel of your Formula One speedster and race around the major racing tracks of the world. Formula One Exhaust Heat is a super-fast, highly exciting version of the real sport and comes complete with battery back-up which saves all your top performances. Well worth investing your English pounds sterling in.

OVERALL 91%

GUNDAM F91

This is a very obscure arcade/strategy game that was released in Japan, but not imported into this country in any great numbers. This isn't surprising considering that most of the text is in Japanese, making the game virtually unplayable.

OVERALL 49%



F-ZERO

This is one of Nintendo's flagship games for the Super NES, and it's not surprising! Featuring super-smooth amazing 3D graphics, along with high-speed action as you zoom around 15 different tracks, F-Zero is an essential purchase.

OVERALL 90%

HOLE-IN-ONE GOLF

Oo-er! Hole-In-One Golf is a rather sad attempt at a golf sim. First of all, rather unrealistically, the action is viewed from above and depicted with very uninspiring graphics. The game itself is dull and tedious to the extreme. Golfing fans are better off waiting for PGA Tour Golf.

OVERALL 49%

HOME ALONE

In this conversion of the massive movie, you take the role of young Kevin McAllister, who roams his (unrealistically) large mansion in search of treasures to hide and villains to deck with his water pistol (!). Home Alone is a retarded debacle with pitiful, wizened graphics and jarring, booming soundtracks. You'd have more fun sticking your money up your bum than wasting it on this vomit-inducing trash.

OVERALL 22%

HYPERZONE

Let's make no bones about it. Hyperzone is a scrolling 3D blaster with average graphics, warbling sounds and gameplay that's so completely unexciting, you'll want to forget that you ever bought it.

OVERALL 29%

JELLY BEAN

In this jolly game, you control a jelly bean that roams around scrolling platform levels getting up to all sorts of mis-

chief as only a jelly bean can (?). People either love or hate Jelly Bean (Or Jerry Boy as it's known in Japan). Although it's all good fun, Super Mario and Castlevania IV are superior examples of the genre.

OVERALL 75%

JOE AND MAC: CAVEMAN NINJA

In this coin-op conversion, you run around prehistoric backdrops, beating up dinosaurs so you can rescue your girlfriend from a Gary Harrod lookalike. This is quite a close conversion, with only a few bonus levels missing, but it's quite easy to complete after a few sessions' play.

OVERALL 71%

JOHN MADDEN FOOTBALL

The version of John Madden currently available on import is disappointing compared to its Megadrive counterpart. It looks unfinished and has very flickery graphics, and the gameplay (although fun) is very rough around the edges. Wait for Nintendo's American football game to appear.

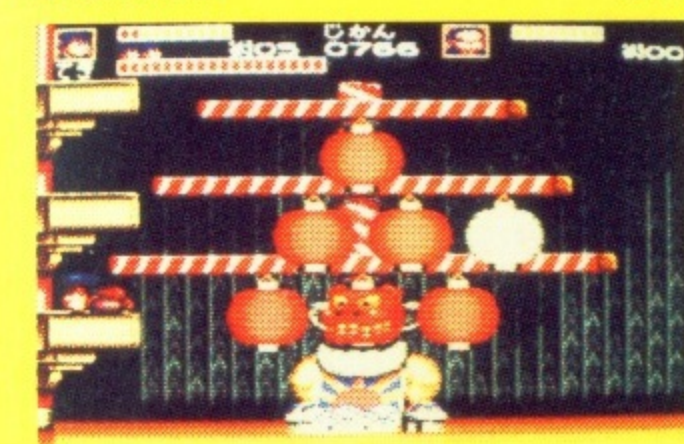
OVERALL 68%



LEGEND OF THE MYSTICAL NINJA

Also known as Goeman Warrior, this is a completely fab scrolling exploration game with beat 'em up and shooting elements. The graphics are mega-cute and brilliant to boot and the soundtracks are awesome. There's a stiff challenge here too, and the game will take ages to complete. An essential buy.

OVERALL 94%



LEMMINGS

Save those brainless, suicide-motivated Lemmings from an untimely death in this brilliant, fun game. The graphics and sound are okay, but it's the fresh, original gameplay that makes this the superb title that it is.

OVERALL 92%

PAPERBOY II

Paperboy returns in this multi-directionally scrolling effort. The aim is to deliver papers to all your subscribers whilst avoiding enemy sprites. The graphics are little better than the Master System version, and the extra directions you

can go add nothing to the gameplay. Like Paperboy himself, this ultimately fails to deliver.

OVERALL 41%



PILOTWINGS

Take a trip to the Pilotwings academy for advanced flying in this visually stunning game. Hang-gliding, jet-packing, parachuting and plane-flying are all here to be enjoyed. Although the novelty does wear off after a while, Pilotwings still ranks as a highly playable, exquisite game.

OVERALL 90%

POPULOUS

Become God and make your followers and their settlements prosper, but beware of the devil who's doing exactly the same thing! Populous is difficult to control and has boring graphics and sound. The gameplay, though initially enjoyable, soon becomes quite dull.

OVERALL 77%

PRO BASEBALL

This Super NES version of one of America's top sports is much the same as any other baseball you've ever played with the same third person perspective view of the pitch. The actual gameplay itself is remarkably unimpressive and dull. We reckon that even baseball fans will sneer contemptuously at this lacking effort.

OVERALL 48%

PRO SOCCER

Lace up your boots and take to the eight-way scrolling overhead-view pitch in Pro Soccer. This is actually a very poor Super NES version of Kick Off - the greatest soccer game ever. Unrealistic play, poor controls and crap graphics seal this one's doom.

OVERALL 55%

RAIDEN TRAD

This vertically excursion into Blasterville, Arizona is very similar to the truly tragic Dimension Force. It has infantile graphics, wobbly sounds and scrolling that suffers from regular convulsions. Fans of the coin-op will feel cheated by this disabled conversion.

OVERALL 31%

THE ROCKETEER

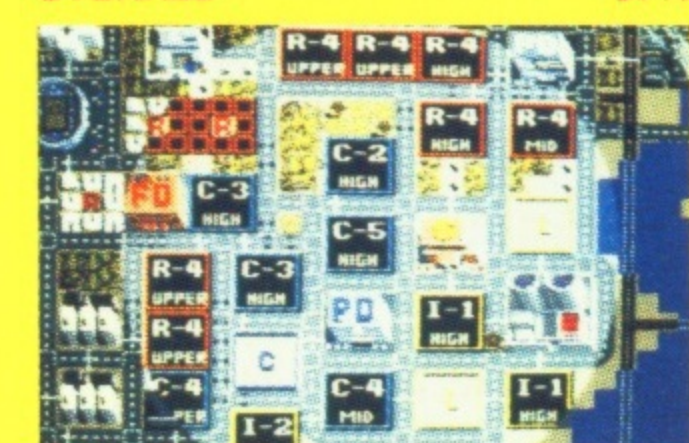
Step into the boots of Cliff Secord - the man who finds a rocket pack in his plane and becomes... The Rocketeer! He scoots through boring races, tepid Cabal-style blasting sections and yawn-inducing horizontally scrolling levels in order to save the day. As you can tell, we don't like this game much and neither will you if you waste your money purchasing it.

OVERALL 40%

RPM RACING

This is actually a conversion of the brilliant C64 game, Racing Destruction Set. It enables two players to race around isometric scrolling tracks in custom cars. There's even a track editor to prolong the fun. Unfortunately, in the playability stakes this grows dull very quickly. In fact, the original C64 version is far superior.

OVERALL 67%



SIM CITY

In this highly original game, you create and nurture your own city, dealing with all the usual problems of over-crowding, pollution and various other environmental disasters. This might sound boring, but Sim City is actually very deep and involving and hours literally fly by when you play it. A truly classic cart.

OVERALL 93%



SMASH TV

The brilliant Williams' coin-op of mass destruction hits the Super NES and how! Just about every level has been included, along with all the graphics, sound, speech and gameplay of the original. The two-player mode is also in there, making this one of the definitive console blasters.

OVERALL 93%

SOUL BLADER

Once again we return to RPG Land, but this time we're in a game that offer lots of fun and excitement, along with brain-bending puzzles aplenty. The graphics and sound are also of a high-quality, making for a cool game that's recommended.

OVERALL 84%

SPANKY'S QUEST

Spanky isn't some kind of perv as you might expect from someone with his moniker, but is in fact a monkey who bounces bubbles on his head and uses them to smash his foes (!!!) in a platform environment. The game is fun to begin with, but there's only so much excitement you can have with bubbles and monkeys called Spanky, and that doesn't turn out to be much at all.

OVERALL 55%

SUPER ADVENTURE ISLAND

You might as well ignore the title. This

is actually Wonderboy on the Super NES, converted by the game's creators, Hudson Soft. This cart plays identically to Wonderboy but with enhanced graphics and amazing music to beef up the proceedings. It's good fun, but it can be completed pretty quickly.

OVERALL 78%



SUPER CASTLEVANIA

Simon Belmont is back! Once again, Drac is causing him a bit of aggro, so Simes tracks across the platform kingdom into Drac's castle and attempts to dust the Big D himself. Super Castlevania has truly excellent graphics, sound and gameplay, but it is a bit easy to complete for experienced players.

OVERALL 91%

SUPER DEFORMER GREAT BATTLE

This is a very early Super NES release that is best forgotten and sent to the bowels of a dusty vault, where it should remain forever. If you are interested in the game, it's got tiny, rubbish sprites, infantile backdrops and gameplay that's tedious to the extreme.

OVERALL 41%

SUPER EDF

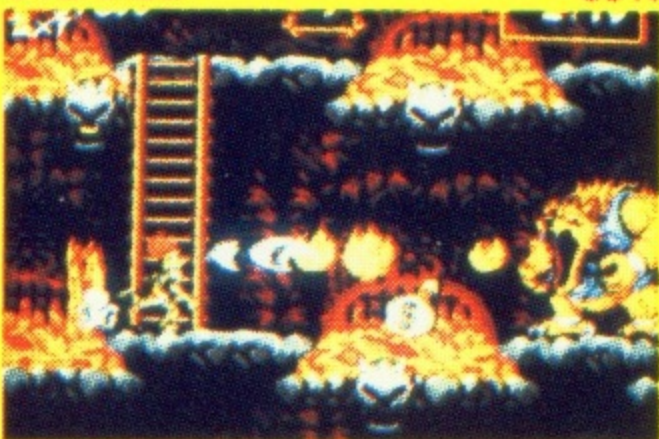
This is very similar indeed to the Jaleco horizontally scrolling coin-op, which isn't something to be proud of considering that this game offers nothing new to the shoot 'em up genre, and even a games playing baboon can complete the game in one sitting. A woeful case of nice graphics, shame about the gameplay.

OVERALL 48%

SUPERFIRE PRO WRESTLING

As wrestling games go, you can't get much worse than the cartridge-based tragedy that is Superfire Pro Wrestling. The ring is laughably drawn, the sprites are jerky and unrealistic. The game itself is about as enjoyable as dowsing your best underpants with petrol, putting them on and setting fire to them.

OVERALL 39%



SUPER GHOULS 'N' GHOSTS

Once again, Sir Arthur's back to save his girlfriend from the perverse clutches

of Lucifer in some more scrolling platform tomfoolery. Super Ghouls 'n' Ghosts has it all - brilliant graphics, amazing sound, awesome gameplay and a really tough challenge. An essential buy for your Super NES.

OVERALL 94%



SUPER MARIO BROTHERS IV

The man with the meanest dungarees in town is back for some more multi-directionally scrolling shenanigans as he attempts to save the Mushroom Worlds from the twisted Koopa. Boasting cool graphics, super sounds and AMAZING gameplay, Super Mario Brothers IV is probably the best video game in the world.

OVERALL 98%



SUPER OFF-ROAD

Tradewest introduce Super NES owners to the thrills of zooming around single-screen dirt tracks in 4x4 trucks. This improves on the coin-op in terms of playability and presentation, and with its highly competitive two-player mode, Super Off-Road is sure to go down well with racing fans.

OVERALL 87%

SUPER R-TYPE

Take on the might of the Bydo empire in this souped-up version of the classic horizontally scrolling coin-op. Super R-Type is great fun to play and has some great graphics. The problem is that the game slows down a lot and it's very easy to complete, with nothing more to see on the higher difficulty levels.

OVERALL 82%

SUPER SOCCER

Soccer is soccer, only this time it's played out on a third person perspective spin 'n' scroll pitch. Although it's a treat to look at, there isn't much of the pitch viewed at once, making passing very difficult. The ball movement is also quite unrealistic. Technically polished, but lacking in the playability department Super Soccer is only really recommended to die-hard football fans.

OVERALL 79%

SUPER TENNIS

The Super NES' spin 'n' scroll graphics

chips are used to create a fast, smooth third person perspective tennis court, populated by cute sprites that swear a lot (on the Japanese version). Super Tennis is the best tennis game ever produced. Its playability is unrivalled and as a two-player game, it's the tops!

OVERALL 94%

THUNDER SPIRITS

Essentially, this game is a straight conversion of the side-on shooter, Thunderforce III (a Megadrive game), with bits of Thunderforce II (another Megadrive game) added in for good measure. The graphics are quite tasty, but for the most part the game is very easy, with only the last boss putting up a decent fight.

OVERALL 73%

ULTRAMAN

Take control of the tackiest, cheesiest super hero of them all, Japan's very own Ultraman! This side-on scrolling one-on-one beat 'em up catches the atmosphere of the crappy movies perfectly, and although it's easy to complete, it is very amusing and diverting. It's no Street Fighter II, but it's the best laugh you'll get from the Super NES.

OVERALL 77%



UN SQUADRON

Known as Area 88 in Japan, this side-on scrolling shoot 'em up coin-op conversion isn't as technically amazing as Contra Spirits, but it's just as playable and even more lastable. The graphics are stunning, the sound decent and the gameplay highly exciting. Another Capcom winner.

OVERALL 94%

WWF WRESTLEMANIA

Those sweaty WWF wrestlers take to the Super NES in real style! Ten wrestlers, each with 20 moves, along with three different skill levels and modes of play make this one cool game. It's a tad too easy (even in HARD mode) and the two-player mode was ruined for us by one move that cannot be beaten. However, that move will take quite a while to find and WWF remains a skillful game that's highly recommended.

OVERALL 84%

ZELDA III

Link returns in this viewed-from-above scrolling quest with thousands of screens, loads of puzzles and some great graphics and sound. This is the definitive adventure game for the Super NES, but be sure to buy the American version of the game because the Japanese import version has lots and lots of indecipherable foreign text.

OVERALL 95%

